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A LITTLE SKETCH BOOK OR LITERARY JOTTINGS,

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PREFACE.

IN offering this little tome to the public, I do not aim at fame or popularity, because almost every one of the subjects has been in print and been before the public. But to please my friends through whose persuations I collect the contents of this book in one place. In doing this I have accomplished one satisfaction that is I have been able to dedicate it to the memory of one whom I esteemed, honored and loved—perhaps I did more than I would even to my own brother.

There is another satisfaction, I am sure as the reader will readily perceive that it may also help him and those who are anxious to know most things that are here related in this book belonging to England.

Before I conclude I must express my sincere thanks and deep obligation to my revered tutor Mr. Luke Burke, who rendered me great assistance in all my compositions. And I gratefully acknowledge whatever I have learned and whatever guides me in my writings, it is all through his sound tuition.

Whatever may be its faults and demerits, which I have no doubt, it abounds, if it is ever proved useful in the hands of those for whom it is intended, my labours will be amply paid.

S. SERVUS DEI.

Madras, 10*th June* 1883.

A
LITTLE SKETCH BOOK
OR
LITERARY JOTTINGS.

DEDICATION.

THESE PAGES ARE INSCRIBED TO THE BELOVED MEMORY

OF HIS

Most valued and dearest friend,

RAEES UDDIN AHMED,

Barrister-at-Law,

Whose untimely death was deeply mourned, and who was held in high estimation, and affectionate regards of the

AUTHOR.

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M83

A VOYAGE FROM CALCUTTA TO ENGLAND.*

LEAVING behind me, with great regret, all my best and dearest relatives and friends, I embarked, on the morning of November the 2nd, 1876, on board the Steamship "Teheran" of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company bound for England, that great centre of enlightenment, commerce and wealth where I hoped to complete my studies and attain the means of realising the cherished objects of my ambition.

When the ship got under weigh, I went to my cabin which contained (4) four berths, two of them raised a little from the floor, and the other two placed directly above them.

While putting my luggage in order the Steward came in and asked for my Ticket, the price of which was £37. I gave it, and was politely thanked. I expected to have it returned, and as it was not brought back, I sometime later asked for it, but was told that it was, "all right" and that I had no occasion to trouble myself any more about it.

While sitting in my bunk, I felt miserable, and burst into tears, thinking of my poor dear mother, of my kind step-father, my guide and instructor of

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* Appeared in various numbers of the Calcutta Madrasah Literary Budget.

my infancy and youth and the guardian of my little estate, thinking also of my younger half brothers and half sisters and of the other relatives and friends I was leaving for the long space of four years and more, and of the perilous and arduous task before me, in going to a far distant country of which I was quite ignorant.

While thus pondering and gazing out on the Hughli through the port-hole of my cabin, I at last closed my eyes and dropt to sleep while repeating the following lines.

> "Recollection! at hand
> "Soon hurries me back to despair"

I slept for nearly three hours and a half awaking at half past 2, and having eaten a little curry and rice, with a fork and spoon to which I was unaccustomed, I washed my face, hands, and feet and uttered a prayer according to my religion, begging the blessing of the Almighty Father and Creator of the universe on his young and helpless creature who was imploring his protecting care.

Having accomplished this duty I went on deck, where I saw five cages filled with various kinds of fowls, and near them some sheep, rams, and pigs and a fine milch-cow.

The ship, after leaving "Diamond Harbour" and "Sandheads," anchored in the middle of the "Ganga Sagor" at 2-45 P. M. I regret that I was not called as we passed the Harbour, so I cannot describe it. We

are now in the "Ganga Sagor" which is twice as large as the Hughli.

At 5 in the evening we took Tea, which was accompanied with cold meat and bread and butter. After dusk I strolled on the Fore-Castle deck, while a brilliant moon was shining over head, and I turned with gratitude to the beneficent Power which had given to the earth this noble orb.

I made the acquaintances of two of the Passengers and recommended myself to their care as being quite ignorant of all about me. They kindly promised to look after me, and I was afterwards rejoiced to find in my Cabin three Mussalman Passengers, one a respectable Merchant going to "Point de Galle" in Ceylon, the other two servants of His highness the Nawab Nazim of Bengal, who is now living in London whither they were going *via* Southampton. This unexpected discovery gave me great delight and very much increased confidence.

As I had left Calcutta shortly after recovering from an illness, I had a medicine chest with me consisting of about twenty bottles of Medicine such as Cinchona mixture, chlorodyne, cod liver oil, Tincture of camphor, &c., &c. I took the Cinchona twice, said my evening prayers, chatted, smoked for sometime, and then at 8 P. M. we all took cheese and biscuits, and at 10, I went to bed.

On the morning of the 3rd November, I got up from my bed, and joined those taking coffee at 6 o'clock A. M. I felt some what feverish and asked the Second Steward, a Portuguese, who was very attentive to me for the Doctor of the ship, he took me to his cabin in the Saloon. I learnt that the Surgeon did not see patients of the second class till after 10 A. M.; so I went to him again at that time. He questioned me, and I showed him my list of medicines. Then he directed me to go on regularly with the Cinchona mixture and the nitric æther.

We took breakfast at 8 o'clock, this consisted of mutton chops, boiled potatoes, fried fish, bread and butter, curry and rice and tea. The ship got under weigh at the same time.

We entered the Bay of Bengal when a vast expanse of waters spread out before us ; and no sooner did the ship get fairly out upon the ocean waves, than she began to roll severely. I got terribly sick, had a severe headache, and after vomitting two or three times, I went to bed. I took a few doses of the mixture and nitric æther which did my fever good, but were of no use to my sea sickness. The Surgeon visited me again in my cabin being called by the Steward. He ordered me for diet milk, bread and arrowroot. For full two days, I could not eat any thing except arrowroot with milk and sugar or biscuit, laying in my bed. It was quite impossible for me to

raise my head from the pillow and sit up properly. All the Passengers even the Surgeon himself used to tell me, it was not well to lie down all the while in one's bunk, one should go on deck and breathe the fresh air of the sea. Sometimes I did accordingly get up but at others I could not move a step from my cabin. But when I could have the pleasure of going on deck during my sea-sickness, I felt much better.

On the 5th.—We cast anchor in the harbour of Madras at 4 A. M. I was feeling a little better at the time and went on the deck. I felt disposed to go on shore and take a walk round the town, but as none of my fellow passengers deemed it advisable to go I did not move either.

This magnificent capital contains a good number of nice houses, splendidand beautiful buildings, stately edifices, a strong fortress and the Governor's Palace, &c., &c. Indeed it is a place worth looking at. Besides, the vivid green of nature made a splendid show. I heard from a native of the place that the Residence of the Governor is close to the Fort. He pointed out such of the Public Buildings, the Fort, &c., as could be seen from the vessel and gave me several pieces of information, for he is employed as a guide for those who wish to go on shore to see the town, and is paid for of course by those who hire him. He several times tried to induce me to follow him, but I refused, partly owing to my ill-health and partly thinking I

might be cheated in going with him alone. A number of people, including boys, came on board selling sea-shells, the tusk of the swordfish, silk dresses, handkerchiefs and many other trifling things. A few jugglers also came and showed their tricks and were paid two or three shillings by the Passengers. One, I remember asked me for money, offering to teach me in return his art. But I declined. One fellow came to sell ices made with orange or lime juice and a little sugar, one wine glassful I bought for 3*d.* while the other Europeans paid 6*d.* for each glass. On the whole I found and heard also that the people of this place are very poor and miserable ; indeed I pitied them. As I was standing near the railing of the Forecastle deck, I saw some fishermen fishing so skilfully in the Bay round our ship that I was surprised to see them. Their fishing boat was so small and of so peculiar a sort, it astonished me still more. Then I saw some different kinds of fish of different colours. Being induced by the Nizam's servants, I purchased 2 fishes of red and yellow colours for 3*d.* only. They dressed them and gave me a little as I desired with rice in the evening, but I was sorry to say that I could not enjoy it, for it was cooked with bad oil, and so was of bitter taste. The Stewards asked me twice or thrice to come to tables for dinner and tea, but I declined. For the whole day the ship changed and exchanged the imports and exports with

much credit to the officers and crews on board. From one side they were receiving the Merchandise and from the other side they were despatching what was intended for the harbour with great ease and facility by means of two Machines.

The fresh water which was brought from Calcutta for the use of the Passengers and crew of the ship being exhausted, a fresh stock was taken here. It was fetched from ashore by a boat engaged for the purpose and was taken in the ship by means of a long pipe. A sufficient amount of coal also was taken from here.

I had written four or five letters, but could not despatch them for want of a messenger, for though there were men about, I had no faith in them. One lady passenger with an infant embarked from here in the second class companion, she was going to Sydney in Australia. The ship bound for her long voyage again left Madras at about 10 P. M.

Unfortunately I again became sea-sick and so continued for three days. During these days I used to take arrowroot for breakfast, some cakes, plum or rice puddings, tart or anything the day afforded for dinner; and biscuit and salad of cucumber and onion with vinegar at tea. The merchant who provided his own provisions, on which account a deduction was made in his passage money, gave me and our other

two companions a dinner nicely cooked in our *Hindustanee* way the day before he landed. He also left two chickens for me. Indeed he was a nice, well-behaved gentleman.

On the morning of the 8th the long chains of rocks and precipices of the Island of Ceylon were coming into view on the right hand. What a strange look presents to the eye of the beholder! Every thing seem barren and deserted, the reader may well imagine how long they were, as they were in sight until we reached the next port.

We cast anchor in the harbour of *Point de Galle* on the 9th at about 9 A. M. We had a shower of rain just after our arrival there. I was very glad to find my health restored here. I had a splendid view of this small place. It was thickly surrounded with an enormous number of cocoanut and plantain trees. I believe, nay, I am sure, that I have never seen such a mass of cocoanut and plantain trees in Bengal in my life, and I don't believe I shall see such any where else. There was a high piece of rock in the fore-ground which I was told by a native of the place, was the supposed rampart where *Rama Rajah* fought with *Ravana*, the ten-headed-Rakshas or the monster-king of Lanka (Ceylon), on account of *Rama's* wife *Shita* whom *Ravana* carried away by treachery. In this war the cause of *Rama* was supported by an army of monkeys. It is supposed or rather believed by most peo-

ple in our country that the all kinds of fine fruits, especially the mangoes which we enjoy in India, were first brought to India from the gardens of *Ravana*, by *Hanuman* the great monkey-chief and favorite of *Rama*.

I heard that the golden throne of *Ravana* as is believed by the Hindus, was now submerged under the water, his palace, which used to be filled with a hundred thousand wives, is all ruined and covered with jungle, and is nearly 50 miles from the town of Galle. I was also told that the spot called Adam's Peak was three days' journey from here and was a place well worth seeing.

His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon does not reside here. He lives in Colombo. At 11 A. M., I went ashore with a guide by a ferry boat, at a charge of 6 pence. We entered the beautiful port and noticed the Government Bank, European Hotels, nice English shops containing all sorts of valuable articles, required either for comfort or luxury; Post-office, Police and Magistrates' Court within. I sat in one of the shops of course a Mussalman's, wrote a few letters. I exchanged a note of Rs. 50 (currency paying Rs. 2 as discount and purchased three sovereigns for Rs. 36.) I dropt my letters with four-anna stamps on each in the Post box. I ordered the guide to get a carriage, so we had a pleasant drive throughout the city. I

bought a good quantity of Indian fruits, such as Jack fruits, oranges, red and ordinary plantains; (red I had never seen before) cocoanut, sugar-cane, &c., &c. ; and also betel leaves and nuts which I was very fond of. Though it is a place plentiful in fruits, they were sold very dear ; and not only fruits but almost every thing else was dear. Afterwards, I was informed that this little harbour was so often touched at, by ships and steamers that they carry away so much of its productions that they made the rest very dear.

The inhabitants are Mussalmans, Hindus and Buddhists. The Mussalmans, whether rich or poor, gentry or low, use a very peculiar sort of cap which distinguishes them from other castes. All Hindus both males and females put on a carved comb in the middle of their heads. And there was also some peculiarity in their dress. Buddhists wear a uniform dress and they can speak English too. I had gone a little further to the adjacent villages where I found very nice one-storied buildings, houses and cottages surrounded with the well-known trees of this place. I was very glad to find that nature had been very kind with luxuriant green and verdure to this pretty little spot.

I visited a large and beautiful Mosque and a *Majar* (Mausoleum) of certain *Aoulia* within the compound of the holy temple.

There was a churchyard in front of the fort and a separate fish and meat market on the side of the yard. The ordinary bazaar selling fruits, vegetables, &c., &c., was pretty. I was delighted to find every creek and corner of the town even in those litttle villages adjacent neat and clean. I again drove down to the fort to pay a visit to my friend the Merchant and returned to our ship at 4 o'clock P. M., I paid one rupee for the carriage hire and one rupee and twelve annas to my guide.

It was very amusing to see people coming around the vessel in their small peculiar sort of boats to sell various fruits, beautiful writing boxes of different kinds, inkstands made of nice wood, gilt rings and many other fancy things. I was so struck by the beauty of one of the inkstands that I could not help buying it. It cost Rs. 7.

I forgot to mention that another ship belonging to this well-known Company,* the S. S. *Geelong*, arrived at this place half an hour later than ours with the mails, passengers and cargo from Yokohama in Japan, and China. The *Geelong* left for Bombay on the evening of the next day, taking the passengers for China and Australia and also the cargo and mails for the respective places.

We had three passengers including the lady in the second class for those places; these were all transferred to the *Geelong* and we received in return from

* P. & O. Company.

the ship three gentlemen and one lady. And we had no passengers from this place. I regretted much the loss of the second steward who was transferred to the *Geelong* for Bombay.

I may mention that at 'Galle' I saw a grand residence of the Portuguese Consul on a rock surrounded with trees while a large flag was flying over the terrace.

For full two days and even at night the officers of the vessel received and despatched goods of various sorts, such as rice, hemp or flax, China silk, coffee, tea, &c., &c After taking sufficient coal and fresh-water, the vessel left the shore on the 11th at 9 A. M. As we entered the Indian Ocean, the sea became very rough and the ship began to roll terribly. But the wind was very favorable so that she was sailing at full speed.

I again became sea-sick and so continued for three and a half days. My food was as before. On the fourth day I got up from my sick-bed felt perfectly well, and began to take my food at table regularly. From that time, I used to stay on the forecastle deck as long as I could, sitting under an awning which served as an umbrella being hoisted over our heads. No land, no face of human being, no dwellings, no city or town, no gardens, no landscape could be seen around, nothing but the heavens above and the waters beneath.

At times, I was delighted to watch the flying fish, how quickly they glanced over the rippling waves. There were also a very few sea-birds swooping over the deep. On the 17th, we saw two large rocks standing like two huge monsters in the ocean, which probably formed a shelter for the sea-birds.

On the morning of the 19th the high rocks and hillocks, of Aden were in view. At 11 A. M. the ship was anchored in front of the Fort of Aden. The Fort stands on a high rock and is strongly fortified.

I went ashore in a ferry boat, paid a shilling for its fare and took a Mussalman lad as a guide. I first went to the Post Office, asked for a seat for the purpose of writing my letters and was politely informed by the Post Master that there was no admittance into the office; so I stood near the window where a piece of board was fixed and this helped me as a writing table, I wrote two letters, one to my dear step-father and the other to a friend and well-wisher in Calcutta. I stamped them with four annas each. The lad showed me the office of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, the Magistrate's Court, the River Police Station standing on a lofty rock; and many other beautiful buildings and houses near the shore. I was informed that the city of Aden was three miles from the fort. I was recommended by several persons to go and have a look at the town and I had, indeed, a great desire to see it, but owing to our limited time

as we were to leave the place at 4 o'clock P. M., I thought it best not to go. Carriages and conveyances were also available at the place. I went along with the guide to the small Bazaar of the fort and on the way met with several French and English hotels, the telegraph office, rich Parsee shops and a photographic establishment. The area of the bazaar was wery small. It contained one storied rough houses built of stone and forming shops for miscellaneous articles. I bought some dates, apples, Indian tobacco, four fishes for 3*d*. and two seers of Mutton (I mean here the flesh of *Domba*) for sixpence. I returned on board after two hours and paid my guide 9*d*. only. . .

All the buildings, offices and houses about the fort are strongly constructed of stone. Some of them looked very grand nor was the scenery altogether bad, the town being situated on high rocks which seemed so small from the vessel that I imagined at first that their height could not be more than four or five yards.

I felt very proud and truly happy at having touched the shores of Aden, one of the towns of our holy country Arabia. Indeed, I kissed the ground, prayed to the omnipotent being and asked when that blessed day would arrive in which I should be able to purify my sinful heart and body by making a pilgrimage to that holiest shrine *Mecca*, our sanctuary, and thereby make myself a happy *haji*.

. . I found almost all the people of the place Muhammadans. Their complexion was very dark but there was some difference amongst the people those of the higher class. The richest merchants of the place are Parsees. All here speak a corruption of Arabic and a few can speak English too. Every one had a *tabiz* (amulet) on his neck, a *tasbi* or beads in his hand. I was, indeed, gratified to meet with such a number of my co-religionists. It amused me much to observe the hair of some mountaineers which was curled like wool and was marvellously glossy. The hair is quite different from ours. It pleased me still more to witness the dauntless bravery of some little boys aged six or seven years or even less, and also to see their diversions. Those boys each came in a single boat which was of the smallest size, *i. e.*, its length was about three hands and breadth one hand. They asked us to throw a rupee, a pice, or any part of a rupee into the water and they cried out that they would dive for it, catch it at the bottom and fetch it to us, and they actually did this. One of the passengers dropt a two-anna-piece in our presence. No sooner did the small bit fall from his hand into the water, than one of them jumped from his tiny boat, dived and picked it up without any delay or hesitation. They are so expert in diving that they never fail to win their game and this surprised me very much. The people are, especially lower order, very poorly

clad, badly fed and lived miserably. But they are very industrious and hardworking men. I saw many camels, asses and donkeys kept on shore for carrying goods and for other mercantile purposes. There also came several persons on board the ship to sell various trifling articles of which two struck me much they were the very handsome feathers so prized by most English people and the large eggs of the Ostrich. On our right were numberless fish, large and small, swimming and diving in the quiet waves of the Gulf. On the left another mass of rock, and in front a large meadow and pasture land.

Two Egyptian gentlemen accompanied by their wives, four children and one maid servant embarked from here as deck passengers for Suez. After the necessary business of the ship had been transacted, we left the place at about 5 P. M.

In the space of twelve hours we passed the Gulf of Aden and the Straits of "Babel Mandeb" and then in the morning entered the Red Sea. I had felt great curiosity about this sea, I had supposed that its waters were red, but on the contrary and to my satisfaction and surprise I discovered that it was the land which was red. As I was strolling on the Forecastle deck, I watched a large shoal of red herrings and other fish playing on the surface of the sea. And a flock of sea-kites flying and occasionally swooping.

and darting on them. Reader, what selfish and cruel birds these must have been! Fancy that for the mere sake of destroying the poor fish, they were interrupting their innocent sports. Oh horrible, horrible! I wish I had a revolver by me; for I would then assuredly shoot them down, and rescue the poor fish from their clutches.

On the 21st we met with two or three chains of rock standing here and there in the middle of the sea. Next day, at dusk, the west wind blew very piercingly in gusts, and it was so chilly that I was obliged to put on warm dress. From this day I began to wear the European dress, being helped by one scotch, a free passenger in our 'Companion' and he was substituted in the place of the second steward whom I have mentioned above. Some of my fellow-passengers asked me to let them have a drink, telling me that it was the custom of their country that whenever one puts on a new clothing, he had to give a drink to his friends. Hearing this said and having no reason to doubt what they said about their custom, I could not help giving them two shillings for their drink. They drank two bottles of beer out of the sum given, and what happened? Everbody who shared in this drink, was so jolly that he poured heaps of blessings on me, and all wished me success. When the night was pretty advanced, the sea became very rough, and the ship commenced rolling, so, as usual, I was

confined in bed with severe headache and a sensation of *nausea*. I was in this state till we entered the Gulf of Suez, on the morning of the 24th November.

On both sides of the Gulf stretched out long chains of rocks and deep precipices. At night, we passed the gulf and entered the Isthmus of Suez and early at the dawn of the 25th, we anchored in Suez harbour at about 7-15 A. M. The cables of the ship were attached to the Egyptian Railway dockyard. Here Home mails, *via* Brindisi, arrived by train from Alexandria to Suez at 8 A. M. Another Mail steamer of this Company* from Bombay cast anchor at 10 A. M. with several passengers and cargo. Those of the Passengers who meant proceeding to Europe, *via* Brindisi, Ancona or Venice, disembarked here and availed themselves of the transit by train through Egypt. And the fares of this transit were an extra sum of £3 or £2, according to the class of accommodation, in addition to the previous passage money.

I had written a letter for Moulvie Raees Uddin Ahmed Sahib a day before our arrival here, and in which I had requested him to receive me at the Waterloo station, London, on Sunday the 10th December for (was ascertained) the very day of our arrival at Southamptom. I despatched the letter with a postage stamp of two pence and half penny. Nearly all the passengers sent letters home from this place.

* P. and O. Company.

After breakfast I and the Nawab's servants went on shore and walked down the Railway lines to the town of Suez which was a league distant from the dockyard. We rambled through the city and visited almost every nook and corner of it. The town was densely populated, far more so than would have been supposed. It gave me greater pleasure to observe so large a body of Mussalmans than any thing else could have given. Many of them were Turks, Arabs and Egyptians, and from different parts of Africa. They talked Arabic and Turki, and some of them also spoke French and English. They have a very fair complexion, especially the Egyptian ladies and a few other women of the place appeared very nice-looking and many were even beautiful. The Turks all wear a uniform dress with a red cap called "Fez" on their heads. The Arabians looked very reverential with their flowing *Chogas* or Togas and long turbans.

I looked at the shops on both sides of the way. Some of them were apparently very grand and were richly furnished with valuable articles of different sorts. I found all of them set out in English style; besides there were many public buildings and English Hotels. Almost all the merchants and shop-keepers were Turks, in religion they were Mahomedans. They all live in English style. Their manner, and customs and their mode of living were quite different

from those prevailing among the native moslems of Bengal, who imitate the Hindus.

While passing along I saw several respectable Turkish and Egyptian ladies closely vieled walking and talking to each other. A woman here rich or poor, gentle or low, wears *Burqa*, a peculiar sort of dress covering the whole body from head to foot with eye-holes, used in Arabia, Turkey and other places.

I witnessed two or three *Maktabkhanas* (Elementary schools) full of a number of little boys and girls, who were receiving lessons in our holy Quran and other matters. At length, I went to the Bazaar which was a very large one, containing numerous large and pretty shops selling all kinds of fruits, vegetables, fish, meat and all other necessaries. I bought a neck-tie of which I had none, some dates, and 25 oranges for one shilling. I was also shown a large garrison of Turkish soldiers which was a strongly fortified place, and also the residences and offices of the British and French consuls. And in front of the fort there was a great Railway Station which was placed in a spacious compound. I was very glad to find all the Railway officers, including the Head and the subordinates, even the engine-driver, Mussalmans. The distinctions of the classes in the Railway trains were written in Persian characters. It amused me very much to see, men buying fried fish, and bread for their breakfast or refreshment. I found out about ten or twelve shops

of this. The city contains a large number of one, two or three storied nice buildings—houses, and cottages or shops and offices—and they are all built of stone, though some of them look very rough, yet on the whole general effect is good.

In passing through the *bazaar*, I was delighted to discover a native moslem of Lower Bengal who was an inhabitant of Nasirabad in the district of Mymensingh, and was now employed in one of the English Hotels. I talked to him about half an hour, he informed me that fourteen men of the same place besides him were serving in this very hotel. He also said, he had been there for upwards of twelve years. He has got married there and was living very comfortably. He gave me a great deal of information respecting the place. The modes of conveyances at this place are by donkeys and a few horses, and their charges were also very moderate.

It was amusing to learn that all the donkeys had names connected with those of distinguished individuals. I spent about three and a half hours in thus going over the Town. The town belongs to the Pasha of Egypt who is simply a feudatory of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan of Turkey in Europe. (May his Shadow never grow less !) This was the first time I ever saw a Mahomedan governed place. It is well governed. There is no complaint of any irregularity in justice. The Government resembles

the English in many respects. This account of the Turkish rule does not answer to what the Government has been in the past, nor even to what it is now, though we must hope that it will be borne out by the future of the country under the reign of the New Constitution. The subjects of His sacred Majesty here are enjoying the same justice and privileges as we do in India. In my humble opinion, I consider that the Policy adopted in the Government of this place is like that which holds in England. The satisfaction which I felt in visiting this town was beyond my power to express.

At my return from the city, I hired a donkey whose name was Sir Roger Tichborne, and took a splendid ride. I galloped at fullest speed and reached the Dockyard within twenty minutes and paid 6 pence in fare to the owner. I do not recollect the names of the whole lot, but I remember three of them of which two were the best in the place. Their names were Sir Roger Tichborne, Doctor Kennealy and Hoop de-doodle-doo. The former two were praised by every rider in vessel, and I agreed with them.

Suez is surrounded with marshy lands and barren meadows, and on the west side there was a long chain of lofty hillocks and rocks. The town from outside looks miserably wretched, and a most uncomfortable place. Neither foliage of a tree, nor a blade of grass is to be seen around; neither was there any

verdure, nor a lovely spot which could chase away melancholy thoughts, and on which eye could rest with relief and pleasure. In short to use the words of Milton, I "found all about desolate." Goods for Alexandria, Brindisi, Ancona, Venice, Trieste, Marseilles and other places were all shifted from the Ship to the dock-yard and were carried away to their respective places of destination by the swift "Iron horse" of our modern days.

We left Suez on the next day at 8 o'clock A. M. and entered the Suez Canal. On doing so, the statue of the founder of the Canal which stood at its mouth to our left was pointed out to me by several of my fellow passengers, and we all praised him for the great services rendered by his skill and determination to the cause of commerce and the weal of nation. The next post was about 90 miles from this place where the statue I spoke about stood. I saw small huts and cottages of the peasants here and there on the sides of the canal, which often called back to my "mind's eye" the hamlets of the Peasantry of Eastern Bengal. I could not express the pleasure it gave me in seeing the narrow, calm and smooth water of the canal and contemplating the wonderful skill of the Engineer in cutting this expeditious way to Europe, and thereby contributing in no mean degree to the material gain of the world. Indeed, I thought within myself that the memory of this man deserved

a good deal more to be cherished in our greateful remembrance than that of those heroes and warriors who in the garb of royalty had after all played on a large scale the robber's part. But unfortunately the tendency of this nether world is to look down upon, or ignore, the service rendered to mankind by those who have engaged in peaceful avocations, and to laud to the skies the victor of a hundred fights, and the desolator of a hundred homes.

Stretches of barren land were seen on either side of the canal. I noticed several signal houses or offices on the left standing at distances of about three miles all the way between Suez and Port Said. The steamer went at a slow rate on account of the narrowness of the canal which, however, was very deep and clear. At night, the moon was shining with brilliant lustre, and we were all strolling on the deck for hours together. Three more steamers were seen passing in the canal. At 10 P. M. we cast anchor in the canal and after stopping there for a time, left for Port Said at 4 A. M.

I may mention by the way that I saw a row of red and black pillars or light posts on each side of the canal.

On the 26th at 11 A. M. we reached the fine and beautiful harbour of Port Said, situate on the coast of the Mediterranean. This Port is by no means large; but its smallness is more than made up for, by the

very imposing appearance it presents. I am sorry, I could not get ashore, yet the sight of it gratified me extremely. Trade was in a flourishing condition, and its importance was growing every day. I exchanged a soveriegn here for one pound and bought a Fez for two shillings, I found that such caps very cheap here. After the transaction of the usual business of the Vessel, we left this fine harbour at 3 P, M., and entered the Levant, the Eastern part of the Mediterranean Sea. Just at evening, the ship, began to roll about, for the sea was becoming rough. To many, no doubt, it was a pleasant sight to see the ship jerk about, but it was not so to me.

> "Far from enjoying what these scence disclose.
> I feel the thorn, alas ! but miss the rose.

And so I did not escape from my usual sufferings for three days. However, I whiled away the time by repeating occasionally those beautiful lines of Shakespeare, which appeared quite apt to my case :—

"So from that spring, whence comfort seemed to come,

Discomfort swells........."

On the 1st of December 1876, a group of Islands came in view, the ship was sailing directly towards them. On drawing near we made out the Islands of Malta, Gozo and others. These Islands did not look very attractive from the sea. Gozo was the most Wes-

terly, and after the blue haze had turned to brown, and the bare rocks and parched hills were clearly seen, I felt a wish to land upon it. There was a narrow green strait over which something like a castle seemed to keep guard, and then Comino gradually developed itself, a mere islet and almost featureless. Malta was now alongside and soon the white fortifications of Valletta its Capital, began to appear over the hill top. In the Valley was the dome of Mosta looking very insignificant from the distance. The shore was dotted with a great many villas, but not a tree was in sight and everything was either white oolite stone or brown sun-burnt moor. Valletta itself is well situated and strongly fortified on a Peninsula of limestone which divided the harbour into two parts. The town stands very high and as it faces the north, looks higher and shadier than is that side under the glowing southern sky. As the vessel entered, two deep bays presented themselves and three great forts, one on either side and one on the promontory between, looked very imposing in their strength. The Eastern harbour is the chief naval Port, but the ship, keeping to the right, entered the Western, passing close to an Island which lies within the harbour, and cast anchor at 7 A. M. Numberless green boats, with prows like *gondolos*, were being rowed round the vessel at a short distance by sailors who rowed standing. There were great black coal barges, orange-boats, flower boats,

pleasure boats, all putting off from the "Marsamuscetto Gate" at the foot of a steep street of steps. The rocky Promontory on which Valletta stands is full in view and you may observe that it is divided transversely by a deep ravine, down the sides of which are other long flights of steps, as there are also on the water side. Along the dorsal ridge, the axis of the Peninsula was the chief line of street, and all the others run parrallel or at right angles, for Valletta was nó ancient and irregular town but had all been built upon a settled plan after the repulse of the Turks from *St. Elmo*, La. Vallitte, laid the first stone in 1566 and in 1571 the city was completed.

From the level of the sea, Valletta looked still fresh and new, and this look was increased by the number of Villas which on all sides fringed the shores of the harbour—*Sliema*, the principal suburb at that side, being just so near that you can see the carriages coming and going along the dusty road.

After breakfast I and three more European fellow passengers went ashore hiring one of those pleasure boats and paying thereon six pence each. We landed at the town of Valletta. We took a guide and rambled through some parts of the city; the roads were broad and the street large and steepy. We walked to the embankment where we saw a splendid array of battalions and cannons. We noticed three or four

statues of some great men and warriors placed in front of a pretty little flower garden.

There are three places worthy of admiration and well-worth seeing at Malta, which ought to be visited by every traveller. Fortunately, we had the pleasure of visiting them all. First we went to the "Palace" which is a large and stately building and magnificently decorated. It contains numerous chambers and halls of which three are of great importance, one contains, the Imperial Throne and Royal sceptre and is adorned with costly handsome pictures and chandelliers, rich cushions, velvets and carpets. The second or Council room has several Portraits of the Continental Powers of Europe, the United States of America, Africa and India; and this too was not deficient in splendour and magnificence. The Third one is the Malta Armoury, it exhibited all kinds of weapons used in ancient times in all parts of the ancient world. I noticed one iron-helmet used by a certain warrior which was so heavy that I could hardly lift it with both hands, I think its weight was not less than 40lb. I saw there many wonderful things. Indeed, it contains a very large collection of dreadful and deadly weapons with ammunition of various sorts. An attendant accompanied us and explained to us distinctly and concisely with its history. On two sides of the Hall was a balcony, each containing a row of bronze statues of

warriors, clad and armed in ancient fashion. It seemed to me, as if, they were really keeping watch on the Palace. Numerous paintings of sieges and battles and portraits of great warriors were placed on the walls all round the balcony. Downstairs we were shown a "State Carriage" which belonged to the Great Napolean Bonaparte, and was said to be 200 years old; it was kept there for show. Out of mere fun I and one of our companions got into it and sat there for a second or two. We paid two shillings to that attendant. There was a fine orchard within the precincts of the Palace and some orange trees loaded with fruits. We were led out of the Palace by the Prince Alfred's Gate. We left it after having spent half an hour in our visit, and then went to St. John's Chapel where we saw several specimens of ancient stools used at prayer. This was also very interesting and full of information about the ancient forms of worship. Here, too, was a man who explained to us everything connected with this beautiful and richly adorned Chapel. I paid one shilling to him. Finally, we went to another chapel where we witnessed a wonderful collection of mummies of ancient men and women brought from different places, some of which were actually three or four thousand years old.

After greatly enjoying ourselves for three hours in visiting these places, we returned on board at 1 P. M., having paid two shillings to the guide who had

accompanied us, owing to our limited time, we could not see other parts of the Islands. Indeed we saw very little of the place. I felt sorry in the extreme that our short stay here did not enable me to do full justice to the place. Malta is of considerable extent and its houses, public buildings, shops and markets—its manners, customs and mode of living are all in European fashion. The population and people speak English as well as their mother tongue Maltese. I believe they are all Christians.

A crowd of men came on board to sell Manilla cigars, cigarettes, cake-tobaccos, pipes and matches—oranges and pomegranates, nice pigeons and canaries. All were very cheap, but the pomegranates were most so. I bought a very nice fancy smooking pipe for one shilling and one ℔ of cake tobacco ; a few studs and links; 20 oranges, and 4 pomegranates for three pence only, and they were of the best kind. The pomegranates were very large, and delicious too, but the oranges on the other hand were small in size and bitterly sour in taste.

We took no passenger from here and left the place at 3-30 P. M. on the same day, and again entered the Mediterranean Sea, and sailed towards the next Port that of Gibraltar. After two days, the Sea became very rough and the ship at times rolled tremendously, the wind became unfavourable and was blowing in severe gusts, so I fell sick again and

continued so without intermission for full three days. Owing to the unfavourable weather we failed to reach Gibraltar in proper time. At last, we reached the Port on the afternoon of the 6th, when we cast anchor with much difficulty at 2-30 P.M. Feeling a little better I went ashore in company with several other passengers. Gibraltar is a very large and wealthy town and densely populated. The place is well guarded by a very strong fortress, which stands on a high rock. All houses and buildings within the fort are built with stone and so stood as to present on the whole a sloping face.

While we were passing the Fort, we noticed lines of flower-beds with beautiful trees on both sides of the way to the city. While several batteries of Artillery, with large and small cannons were placed at every commanding point. We, afterwards, entered the town and saw a great many rich shops, public houses, lofty buildings and stately edifices, the Post office and the "Sailors home." I heard that our late Commander-in-Chief Lord Napier of Magdala was the Present Governor of this place. In consequence of the shortness of our stay, we could not enjoy much sight seeing here, so, hastened back to our ship at 5 P. M.

On our return, I purchased a pair of fancy kid gloves from the shop of one of the Spanish women, the mistress of which very kindly fitted them on my fingers and I paid her half-a-crown as the price.

I noticed here several handsome Spanish girls and ladies. People here spoke Spanish and French as well as English. Everything appeared to me to be in European style. There were also many Muhammadan merchants from Moroco in the Northern Part of Africa, and these appeared to be getting on very well. Indeed, I was very much pleased to see them here. Here also people came on board to sell fruits: oranges, figs and raisins—honey, cigars and many other trifles. I bought a bag of figs for one shilling and 25 oranges for sixpence. The oranges here too tasted very sour though they were cheap.

A body of Englishmen amounting in number to seventeen who called themselves Engineers and were clad in military dress, embarked from here, and as there was no room in the second class, they were all put on deck. Three other gentlemen were placed in our "companion," and one Mussalman merchant of Moroco took passage for London, and occupied one of the berths in my cabin. What a pity it was that although he had taken his passage for a whole cabin for his own use, and paid a large sum of money, yet he occupied only one birth instead of four. And it surprised me more, that none of the officers on board took any notice of him. It was true that there was no cabin vacant in the second class, yet he should have been transferred into the first class. I believe there was great injustice done to him.

Towards evening what a splendid view the city afforded, when all the lamps were lit in the streets and light streamed from the adjacent houses! Indeed it was a sight worth seeing. At 8 o'clock P.M., after the necessary business of the ship was over, the vessel left the place and sailed through the Straits of Gibraltar, towards her last and long expected port.

Before going any further, I am inclined to draw attention to some other parts connected with my long voyage, which have been omitted by mistake at the beginning of my narrative. I must apologise for the omission and hope that these details will not be less interesting to the reader than those which have preceded them.

I must mention that the second class Companion of our ship "the Teheran" contained six cabins, of which five had accommodations for twenty male passengers and the remaining one for four females, having four berths in each cabin. There were two baths and two water-closets, and two tables keeping a little space between in the Hall of the apartment for the purpose of dining, &c. Two large oil lamps were hanging over head and nine more lights were fixed in the sides of the apartment, three in the water closets and baths and the rest in the six cabins. Those lights were situated in such a way that they gave light both inside and outside the cabins. There were two looking-glasses with gilt frames, two washing-

stands with four water-jugs and three or four tumblers (in a wooden case), in each cabin. The Company supplies Passengers with medicines free if necessary, clean towels one for each person daily, soap, and one or two blankets with counterpane sheets and pillow covers which were changed once a week. All lights were put out after ten at night, except one in the water closet and another lantern with a light was hung in the Hall the whole night. There were three shelves, two for the purpose of keeping tumblers and one for plates, cups, &c., with a drawer below in which, forks, spoons and others things were kept. There were also two lockchains and two pumps for fresh water.

Early in the morning, the Steward fetches coffee, and the Passengers drink it at 6 A. M., and two crews come in by turn to pump, and after an hour or half an hour they retire. Each passenger takes a basinful of fresh water and goes to the bath (if he wants) and there uses first the fresh water and then takes a bath in sea water. I generally used to do the same. I am told that the sea bath is strengthening and refreshing. But I could not ascertain, how far this was true. Again, the steward quickly laid the table with breakfast consisting of some couple of dishes and tea; and it was served at 8 A. M. As soon as the breakfast was over, the Passengers went on deck or fore-castle where they were engaged in sight-seeing, chatting and

smoking. And the poor Steward, as bound to his duty, began to make the beds of the Passengers, to change pillow-covers, sheets (if that be the day for it) and towels, fill up the water jugs, clean every creek and corner of the cabins, &c., by sweeping and washing off the dust and dirt. But I may mention that he was always helped by a free passenger in our companion, who had come from Calcutta and was going to Glasgow in Scotland. After finishing this important part of his business the Steward as well as his assistant, washed his face and hands, put on his clean shirt and waist-coast and then went on the deck for a stroll and a little rest.

At 11 A. M. he fetches biscuits and cheese for the passengers, and we all used to eat them; at the same time, a heap of orders is going round the table, some say, "Steward, get a bottle of beer, please;" others, porter or a glass of brandy please, soda water, whiskey, port and so on. As for me, at times I used to get lemonade; of course all these things have to be paid for. After this all assembled again on the fore-castle taking with them cigars or pipes, novels or other books and each a mat and pillow, the last two belonged to the company. Every Passenger used to get one mat by asking the steward.

At 1 P.M., the Steward laid the table for dinner with a pretty good number of dishes consisting of soup

or fish, boiled mutton, roast beef or *vice versa,* sometimes corn-beef, boiled or fried potatoes, boiled cabbage or cauli-flower or any other kind of vegetable; sago or rice or plum puddings, apple or rhubarb tarts, two or three sorts of cakes, and we had to dine at the same time. Besides the above meats there were also poultry, roast goose or duck, pork on the table for two days in the week. On Sundays we used to get grand dinners with various dishes and on some Sundays we had nice fruits also. Whenever there was pork or bacon on the table, I used to take my food separately, and I had cautioned the Stewards to tell me where there were such things or when there would be any. I need not mention the reason, for I am a Mohammadan. Iced-water was always served. As soon as the dinner was over, the passengers went, some of them on the fore-castle for a little nap on their mats, others to read novels, and some turned into their bunks for an afternoon nap or amused themselves by playing at cards. I used to do all these things on occasions according to circumstances.

The poor Steward generally used to take rest after 3 o'clock and as soon as the bell struck 4, one or two men of the crew came in to pump, and he got up and immediately set himself to prepare Tea for us accompanying it with cold meat, salad, &c. And we took it exactly at 5 in the evening. In the space of half or a quarter of an hour we had finished our Tea

and then all flocked on the deck or fore-castle to stroll about and to inhale the pure fresh air of the Sea.

Some were taking their rounds with cigar or pipe in their mouth and gaily talking, a few were sitting on stools or on the deck, while others formed a circle round them, smoking and chatting or relating their experiences. At times, generally about dusk, or later, half a dozen or so would sit in a circle, one playing the *Concertina*, and the rest singing in chorus; and sometimes they used to dance even. Though this sort of merriment was unfamiliar to me, yet I enjoyed it very heartily.

There were in the crew a number of men from Zanzibar, in the east of Africa, commonly called negroes, employed in the Ship as coalmen. After their day's toil, they enjoy themselves with music, one of them playing on his harp for a couple of hours. It was evidently a greater pleasure to them than it was to us, yet, if I am not mistaken, it might be considered a portion of our merry-making.

After a short time, some of us went down for the purpose of playing at cards and some still strolling over head. Play first commenced between three or four persons at 6-30 or 7 P. M., continued up to 10 o'clock. Besides the players, two or more sitting round as spectators. This was the only sort of game we had in the ship to pass away idle time, card-playing

commenced by the Passengers after leaving *Point de Galle*, and played all the way uninterruptedly and only finished when we reached Southampton. I was able to play to some extent in our Eastern way, and did not know any English game, but fortunately I soon learnt the western method of card playing. Since then I have learnt to play Whist, Domneey partners and *Don Pedro*. This was the only important acquirement I made on board the ship throughout my voyage. At Eight " o'clock the Steward hurriedly brought in biscuit and cheese and a jug of iced water, the play still going on. Again, orders as before, were given for wine, beer, &c., and at 10 o'clock all retired to their cabins and slept.

There was a dozen of men employed to keep watch at night as well as in the day. Six of these were on the fore-castle deck, each having to keep watch for two hours alternately while the other six did so on the middle of the ship where were also some English Guards for the purpose, and from which place the Captain was to look out. As the bell strikes loudly quarter after quarter, one watchman cries out from his post saying, " Agu Dekh" (i. e., Look forward), the other on the fore-castle answers, "Khub Dekhtahai" i.e., yes, I am looking forward. The poor fellows do the same for the whole night. I wondered how they stood so strong against the fearfully cold weather and the terrible waves of

the sea which swept clean over the decks when the weather was more than usually rough.

When the West wind began to blow piercingly and to us become quite unbearable, we scarcely went to the fore-castle. I forgot to mention that there was a small cabin on deck called the Post Office which from that time become our recreation and smoking room. When the wind blew very cold, and we could not stand before it, then we used to flock into that room.

Early in the morning, the ship had to be cleaned washed and swept by the crew with sea water pumped up through a long pipe. We used to find even the smallest corner as clean and nice as possible.

I may mention the manner in which the crew who were almost all Mussalmans, had to enjoy their food. They were fed three times a day, breakfast at 9 A.M., dinner at 1 P.M., and Tea at 5 P.M. But there was no difference of food in the three periods. The meal consisted chiefly of plain rice, meat or fish curry or pulse soup or at times "*Khichri*" (cooked with rice, pulse and some spices, &c.), purified butter (*Ghee*) and dried fish toasted. When the food was ready the two *Sarangs*, the headmen of the crew began to whistle from different sides, the men began to assemble leaving their work for the time. They then divided into 3 or 4 groups each consisting of a dozen men more or less. One from each group stretched out a piece

of canvas a yard or a yard and a half long before his party as a table cloth, and then others brought in the meal in large copper dishes, one for each group. Afterwards, they sat round their respective cloths and ate most happily out of one dish. I am told that all these were at company's expense.

In my idle hours I felt delight in looking at the proceedings of the sailors in going through their regular tasks. I used to watch the chief officer when busy with his official duties, giving orders, inspecting this thing and that, and restlessly taking his rounds; the carpenters both English and Chinese, repairing things broken, and ready to do anything that turned up in their line; some sewing a new sail, others mending, many engaged in binding firmly any loose part in the rope-ladders placed in two sides of each mast for the purpose of reaching to top-masts. These masts were immensely high, a few men were painting them in different colours, others were variously employed.

Here the cooks were busy in dressing the meals; there the butcher sharpening his knife (like Shylock the Jew, exclaiming " this is not in the bond" but the butcher was saying "this is to be killed") and waitng for the order what to kill for the day and he was very expert and clever at his duty. The baker was baking forming the dough into loaves, biscuits, &c, the flour-

man was unceasingly grinding his wheat in a large mill.

Then the poor *Bhandari*, the cook for the common sailors was patiently preparing their meals, setting himself to work before sunrise and completing it at 8 at night. The *Bhandari* had the entire charge of cooking for about 50 or 60 persons three times a day. You may well understand what an amount of labour that entails. He cared not a bit for the rolling of the sea, the waves sweeping over his kitchen, the continual rains at times and the frightful heat from his small kitchen. Notwithstanding all this, he was ready with his meals at the proper time, and after they were over, he was as happy as one could be.

Here our friend the Steward running over and over to fetch meals, &c., from the kitchen. After all he was the man of the period. It was a great pleasure to see the furling and setting of the sail, which the sailors managed beautifully.

The lock chains being in our apartment, and the anchors over head, what a tremendous noise was to be heard at the time of casting or raising them. The noise was like thunder and it was not easy to avoid head-ache.

Captain Johnson used to pay us a visit of inspection on alternate Sundays. At his visit there was a

sort of procession to be seen for the honor of his short tour from one end of the ship to the other. The Captain walked out with one or two guards, the Surgeon, and the chief officer, while the crew wearing their uniform and presenting themselves in lines bowed to him with profound respect.

I have to thank my friend Mr. Fazlul Karim for having kindly lent me two very interesting novels on my departure from Calcutta, and within a couple of days I had gone through both of them. It was very kind of him and I feel very grateful, for, those books were companions in my idle hours, and a great relief to me in my sick bed amidst my various troubles and anxieties.

It was a great pity that though I was an inveterate smoker and had about 300 Burmah cigars with me, yet I could not do justice to them. In other words, I smoked very little on board the ship, sometimes it happened that I could not even bear the smell of tobacco. I distributed them all among my fellow passengers, the Stewards and the Nizam's servants, and only retained 40, which I brought with me to London.

I often sighed in the following verses:—

"Little tube of mighty Power,
Charmer of an idle hour,
Object of my warm desire,
Lip of wax and eye of fire,
And thy snowy taper waist,
With my finger gently braced,

And thy pretty swelling crest;
With my little stopper prest;
And the sweetest bliss of blisses,
Breathing from thy balmy kisses.
Happy thrice and thrice again,
Happiest he of happy men.

Who when again the night returns,
When again the taper burns,
When again the criket's gay,
(Little criket full of play),
Can afford his tube to feed
With the fragrant Indian weed:
Pleasure for a nose divine,
Incense of the god of wine.
"Happy thrice and thrice again,
Happiest he of happy men."

I may mention that I was quite astonishd to find a rare singularity in a wild bird while we were in the Red sea. I never knew that sea-birds especially those of the west were so polite and gentle in their manners. Just at the close of day a sea-bird, black and white in colour, web-footed and in size somewhat bigger than a snipe, being no doubt very wearied on the wing and being desirous of taking its night's rest and there being no other shelter close by, quietly flew on board and took its seat at the front of the forecastle. One of the passengers went to it, caught hold of it and brought it before us. We found it so tame and gentle that we were very much surprised and amused with it. That gentleman took it into his cabin and kept

it there for the night, and early in the morning he let it fly away.

Whenever I felt lonely and disposed to meditate on the works of nature and to look out upon the ocean, I used to recite some Byron's addresses to the ocean.

I think I have fully repaired my omissions and now let me return.

After leaving Gibraltar we passed the Strait in the course of the night and in the morning entered the Atlantic Ocean on the west of Portugal. It was very windy when we left the Port, the weather became unfavorable and the sea was extremely rough. This was for me the worst part of the voyage. The roughness gradually increased, and the vessel was heavily rolling, I took to my bed that night for the last time with severe head-ache and *nausea* which continued for four successive days without intermission.

For these days, I had no appetite and no inclination for eating or drinking whatsoever. But at times I yielded to advice and I used to take one or two biscuits lying in my bunk. I had no power to get up, I could not keep my head erect even for a second. I felt very miserable and awfully sea-sick. For fear of falling from my berth, the ship was pitching and rolling so, I tied myself with a long piece of cloth round the bunk.

The ship was so unsteady that lots of plates, dishes, jugs and tumblers, &c., were smashed tó pieces; no one could walk or stand properly, and at intervals we used to hear tremendous harsh sounds and craking noises utterly unbearable. The Steward could not lay the table properly, the whole of the things came to an end and were dashed to pieces on the floor, he then introduced some wooden frames which were meant for such occasions and they stood a litttle safer. I never saw such huge monster-like waves rushing onward on both sides of the ship, making a hollow path between, raging furiously mountain high, and swooping clear over the ship with terrible knocks. I used to think every time they were going to swallow her up. When we came to the Bay of Biscay, it was still much worse than before. I wish I may never go to that horrible Bay again while I live. Only my Maker knew what my condition was at that critical time. I thanked him over and over, as I got over it.

On the night of the fourth day of these hardships, we entered the English Channel while the weather set in favourably, and the roughness and rolling began to cease. We hurriedly set the sail and were advancing rapidly. Early in the morning I got out from my confinement, took my breakfast and then went on deck to look about.

While the sun was shining brightly, though the wind was exceedingly chilly, we all strolled about

looking eagerly at the land we had so long expected. The Englishmen became very cheerful and happy when they began to perceive the shores of their native land. The love of home and country and the genuine happiness of returning to them after long time could be read in their smiling faces. Though I could not join in their happiness as a countryman, yet I was not less pleased than they were. As we were drawing nearer and nearer to the landing place, our anxiety grew greater than ever.

We could no longer sit in our cabin, nor could we feel any pleasure in eating and drinking but we were constantly on deck looking out and restlessly expecting the time for landing.

I was astonished at the numberless ships, steamers and boats of various colours and designs, and belonging to various nations, which passed us sailing in different directions. There were fishermen in their tiny little boats with their nets, and also many small frigates crossing and re-crossing the Channel. Indeed, it was very interesting to see all these. I learnt a curious fact from a fellow passenger, namely, that sailors have a method by means of which ships can communicate with each other by signs when in want of provisions, water, &c. Just as I was a witness of in the case of a steamer which passed us, and wanted to know of what company our ship was, she hoisted a flag and made signs telling us to what line she belonged and we

immediately answered her in the same way hoisting the flag designed for the P. and O.'s Line. I never knew this before, and thanked my friend for his kind explanation.

CONCLUSION.

At dusk we packed up and labelled our luggage. In the meantime the Isle of Wight came in view on our right but owing to the darkness we could not make out any of its features. A little later, the summer Residence of Her Majesty at Cowes and the Netley Hospital for Military invalids became partially visible by means of the Gas-lights in them.

After a long voyage of forty days, the steam ship "Teheran" safely arrived at Southampton on the evening of the 11th December 1876, at 8 P. M. The reader may well imagine the pleasure I felt when that long expected part of the Country first came into view and when I landed upon its beautiful shore.

Although I was quite fatigued after such a lengthy voyage and though I was very much reduced in health by successive and almost continual sea-sickness, yet the landing on that joyful occasion beguiled all my troubles and anxieties, gave strength to my weak body and courage to my mind and thereby renewed my hopes and ambition.

No sooner did the vessel enter the harbour than almost all the passengers went ashore to look about, some went to theatres, some to the hotels to pass the night there and some returned to the ship late at night. I took the steward as my guide and went ashore for a stroll to see the town. He showed me many places and gave me a good deal of information, and after enjoying ourselves very much we got back at 12 P. M. My mind was so occupied by the thought of seeing London, that I could hardly sleep that night. At 6 in the morning I got up, took a bath, a cup of coffee and some biscuits as did the others. After having hurriedly put on my English dress, the Steward came in and sent my bag and Portmanteau to the Custom House along with the luggage of the other passengers. I, then, bade adieu to my fellow passengers and such of the sailors as I had been a little acquaintance with. I gave eight shillings to the Steward for all his services to me. I believe every one of us gave him something, as he deserved.

Mr. Applebee a fellow passenger, an aged gentleman, who was exceedingly kind to me since I made his acquaintance on board, asked me to breakfast with him. He promised that he would give me every help I required, and would keep with me till I got to my destination or until I met my friend at the Waterloo station. This was very kind of him and he performed what he said. He took my address in London and

gave me his and asked me to go and see him whenever I liked at his house in Erith, Kent. I went with him to Mary's Hotel at Southampton to breakfast, and was introduced to his wife who had come down to meet him. I took two or three slices of bread and butter, boiled eggs and a cup of tea and paid for them 1*s*. 6*d*. I was quite struck to see the "fire-place" there, I had never seen one or had any clear idea of what it could be like. The day was most disagreeable, dull, foggy and very chilly and with a drizzling rain. I found it bitterly cold. After our breakfast we went to the Telegraph office which was close by the Railway dock, I sent a telegram to Mr. Raees Uddin Ahmed, requesting him to meet me at the Waterloo station at 2-30 P. M., it cost one shilling for 20 words besides the name and address. Then, we all went to the Custom House, the officers there examined our luggage, asked me whether I had cigars or tobacco with me, I said that I had got only 35 cigars and ½lb of tobacco and then they opened my Portmanteau and gave me a pass, and I paid two shillings for the custom duty for my whole luggage. We engaged two porters and quickly conveyed our luggage to the Railway station and I paid one shilling to my porter. As my luggage was very little and light too, I did not pay anything for carrying it by train. I wanted to take a first or second class ticket but did not do so, as my friend asked me to go with them and advised me not to lose money by taking those

expensive tickets, and so I took a third class ticket paying 6*s*. 6*d*. as they did and we travelled in the same compartment leaving Southampton at 10 A. M. We safely reached Waterloo station at 2-20 P. M., and I was very kindly received by my worthy friend Mr. Ahmed. I, then, wished good bye to Mr. and Mrs. Applebee and thanked my old friend for his great kindness and the assistances he had given me, for which I shall ever feel indebted to him. From thence I cheerfully accompanied my friend Mr. Ahmed to London, the wonderful capital of the great British Empire. I hired a four-wheeler from the Station and taking my luggage and happily reached his place at 36, Queen Square at 3-30 P. M., my friend had previously engaged a room for me in the same house where I found every comfort. He showed me greater kindness and affection than a brother even. He treated me in an agreeable and friendly manner that was beyond my expectation or anticipation.

I offered thanksgivings to that Merciful Being, the Almighty Creator who brought me under His Divine care and Protection to this far off land. Now having had the power and pleasure of executing my long cherished wish, I felt extremely happy. I thanked millions of times the Omnipotent God, that after all, and after so many hardships and difficulties, I succeeded at length in reaching England.

TO THE SECRETARY NATIONAL INDIAN ASSOCIATION.*

MADAM,

Permit me to lay before you a simple suggestion, which my unqualified opinion and a little patriotic feeling which I bear for my co-religionists make me think proper to bring before the National Indian Association.

I regret very much to see this very great shortcoming on the part of the Association. I believe—nay, I am sure—that all the Muhammadans residing in this country will agree and sympathise with me. The thing is, that your Association has several Branches in all the Presidencies of India, and has in every Branch office-bearers who are Hindus, Parsees, and Englishmen; but not in one Presidency we have a single Muhammadan office-bearer. I do feel a great deal to see this. Have we not men worthy of the post in all India? You say the object of your Association is for the general interest of the loyal subjects of her Majesty the Queen and Empress of India. Are we nobody, then? Have you no sympathy for us? Are we not loyal to our Empress, that we should be excluded from the connection of our Association? No longer we have those meaningless superstitions, no longer we have those narrow-minded prejudices, no longer we possess those drowsy habits, and no longer we have

* Appeared in the journal of the National Indian Association, February 18[illegible]8, number

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that deadly and ruinous sleep. We have roused ourselves up, and we have got over those evils which so long remained as the barriers of our future prospects. Pray look at the condition of the present moment. I am very glad to say that since my arrival here there have come nine Muhammadans within this year. Our number is increasing, and will increase every day. Now, I beg leave to state that we have Muhammadan barristers, solicitors, and other high officials in every Presidency, so that we should like to have an additional office-bearer to the Branch Committees in all the Presidencies, for the benefit of the Muhammadans coming over to this country. I have the pleasure of knowing several gentlemen in India who would, I dare say, exert themselves for their fellow-brethren. I hope the committee will select some who may be deemed fit for this purpose.

I trust you will be kind enough to bring this proposal before the Committee of the National Indian Association. Hoping my request will be complied with, and apologising for the trouble and intrusion,

I have the honor to be,

Madam,

Yours very obediently,

SYUD ABDUR-RAHMAN.

LONDON, 29*th December*, 1877.

[" We are requested to state that the above letter has been laid before the Committee of the National

Indian Association, and that they fully recognise the interest and importance of the suggestions contained in it. The Committee are already communicating with the Secretaries of the Branches in India, in the hope that some Muhammadan gentlemen may consent to act on the Branch Committees, and to promote the objects of the Association among members of their community. We may add, as an explanation of the present constitution of the Branch Committees, that the encouraging signs of awakened interest in education referred to among the Muhammadans are, as the writer of the letter himself implies, of very recent appearance, and that when the Branches of this Association were first formed there were fewer belonging to that body than it may well be believed, there are now who cared for English education, and who would have been willing to unite with Hindus and others in promoting general Social progress. As the Branches undertake to circulate this Journal among their members, we shall hope that, in consequence of the adopting by the Committee of Mr. Syud Abdur Rahman's suggestion, we shall obtain more Muhammadan readers and subscribers, and that we may receive further accounts of the very useful institutions established in the last few years by leading gentlemen of that Community, especially at Calcutta and in the North-West Provinces."]

Since Hon'ble Mir Humayun Jah Bahadur became the first office-bearer of the Madras Branch.

A VISIT TO THE TOWER OF LONDON.*

ON the 13th March a large party of ladies and gentlemen, English and Indians, the latter composed of Muhammadans, Hindus and Parsees, made a pleasant expedition to the Tower, under the guidance of Mr. Hepworth Dixon, author of "Her Majesty's Tower." At 2-45 the party, numbering about 40 or 50 persons, had gathered round Mr. Dixon, and we proceeded towards the "Warf," a strip of strand in front of the fortress, won from the river, and supported by masonery and piles. This wharf is a great work, and is considered one of the wonders of the reign of Henry III, who was called Henry the Builder. It was said to have been several time washed away by strong tides. It was the great object of this king to have this work made permanent, and by his strong determination he ultimately accomplished his object, so that since then it has never shrunk, and is as firm to-day as the earth on which it stands. This wharf was the first London embankment, and it has a promenade walk of 1,240 feet long. Before entering the Inner Ward of the Tower Mr. Dixon stopped us near the "Queen's stairs," which is historically a remarkable spot. He told us that upon these stairs Elinor of Provence, the wife of Henry the Builder, landed after

* Appeared in the journal of the National Indian Association, May 1878, number

being driven back by the commons, who disputed her passage over London Bridge. Upon these stairs the royal personages and the state prisoners had to land, and here Queen Anne Boleyn, as the bride of Henry VIII, was once welcomed with royal pomp. Here also she subsequently came as a prisoner, landed, fell down and swooned. After this we followed Mr. Dixon like a flock of sheep, and entered the Inner Ward through the "Traitor's Gate." This gate Mr. Dixon said was one of the noblest arches in the world. It was built by Henry III., and all personages disgraced and brought for execution had to pass through it. Those poor wretches used to come in little barges, with headsmen at their side, holding in their hands the fatal axe. Our attention was called to the two Wards, one the Royal and the other the People's Ward. In the former Royal personages lived and none but their attendants were admitted; in the latter all other people could come. There were also two Courts of Justice, one called the Court of King's Bench, which was held in the royal quarter, and the other, the Court of Common Pleas, held in the folk's quarter.

After this, passing between massive and turretted walls, we halted in front of the "Iron Gate," nearly opposite to which was another gate called the "Water Gate," which had a fine Gothic arch, to which our attention was called. This Water Gate was the only

outlet from the Tower to the Thames, and beneath this arch many noble men and women, many brave soldiers and poets, had passed to their doom; among them Buckingham and Strafford, Lady Jane Grey, the Princess Elizabeth, William Wallace, David Bruce, Surrey, Raleigh, &c., &c. The Princess Elizabeth (afterwards Queen Elizabeth) when brought to this Tower by the command of her sister Mary, styled the "bloody," said when she leaped from her barge over this gateway "Here landeth as true a subject, being a prisoner, as ever landed at these stairs; and before Thee, O God, I speak it."

Then our attention was called to the "Round Tower," on the right hand side of the Iron Gate. This was one of the strongest of the towers, and was commonly named the "Wakefield Tower," and above it is the present jewel house. This Wakefield Tower is a dungeon strongly built, having some massive walls. Here 500 prisoners were once kept after the battle of Wakefield, most of them being men of rank and title. There was no light in this horrible dungeon, but after these 500 poor unfortunate creatures were put in, two lights were opened inside. Though we were not prisoners of war, our able leader, Mr. Dixon, led us one by one into this dark and most miserable place. Fancy, 500 prisoners kept there at once! We were but 50, and we could hardly breathe, we could scarcely move from one end to the other without pushing one

another side. And what was more striking still was to see certain little cells around, in each of which, as Mr. Dixon described, 40 or 50 persons used to sleep. In the middle of the dungeon he showed us, with the help of a candle, an ancient column of oak, one hundred years old. I think we were rather pleased when we got out of it, for two reasons, one that we were enlightened by the interesting and accurate information given us by Mr. Dixon, and the other simply because it was a relief to be out of such a place.

We next passed through the Iron Gate which leads into the "Bloody Tower." Behind this massive gate, Mr. Dixon pointed out a little gap-like place, which he told us was a place in which scenes of horror were perpetrated. 600 or 700 years ago this gap was a little guard-room, which had secret communications; through this passage Sir John Tyrrell with two accomplices secretly went to the bedchamber of the two young princes, Edward V., and his brother, the Duke of York, sent by the cruel commands of their uncle, the Duke of Gloucester, afterwards Richard III. The hapless princes were smothered by these wretches, who were as cruel as their master. At the end of this sad story, Mr. Dixon asked those ladies and gentlemen who had tickets for the Jewel House to go there now by themselves, so about a dozen left the party and peeped into the house only for a few minutes. There we saw, as I was one of them,

the British regalia, three or four crowns, the royal sword and sceptre, a large silver contribution plate, the golden baptismal font, the imitation of the "Koh-i-nur," all the signs and emblems of the orders of the Bath and Garter, and some other things.

We then joined the party in the Armoury, and found Mr. Dixon talking of that Block of Wood and the Axe by which thousands of lives had been sacrificed. This armoury is one of the finest in Europe. It has a splendid collection of arms of various descriptions, brought from every corner of the globe, and here carefully and neatly arranged. We proceeded then to another part of the armoury called the "White Tower," popularly known as Cæsar's Tower. While we are going through the passage to the St. John's Chapel, Mr. Dixon asked us to notice the inscription on the wall of the stair case, where the murdered princes were buried, and their bones were found after 160 years, for till then this passage was walled up, until at last a skilful engineer found it out, cleared away the rubbish, and discovered the bones of those poor princes. Immediately, by the order of the then reigning king, the bones were removed to Westminister Abbey with proper obsequies and interred there in Henry VII. Chapel.

Then we ascended to St. John's Chapel, which was built in the early Norman style. This chapel is of a most singular style, and was the royal Chapel of

England. Here coronations, marriages of royal personages solemnized, and also baptisms, and here convicts for execution were preached to. Then we went to another part of this White Tower, where we stopped while Mr. Dixon informed us that this chamber was the Great Council chamber for political trials, the Great Banqueting Hall and the dwelling of foreign captive kings. Here John I of France and David of Scotland lived, and after the battle of Agincourt, Charles of Orleans, who was a soldier, a poet and a politician was brought here a captive, and lived in this room in a most melancholy manner for 25 years, during which time he wrote some beautiful poems, which were regarded in France as household poetry, and a copy of which can be seen in the British Museum.

Leaving this chamber, we ascended to the roof of the Tower by several flights of steps. Upon the roof the tower was made defensible, and guns were placed in the embrasures of the parapet. Here are four turrets at the four corners of the tower, and all different the one from the other. A very remarkable story was told of one of the turrets, called the Watch Tower, the largest of the four. King John, having fallen in love with "Maud the Fair," the daughter of Robert, Lord Fitzwalter, one of the greatest barons of the time, confined her in this highest and coldest den in the tower on her refusal to submit to the unlawful proposal he made her, but neither cold, nor solicitude,

nor hunger could break her firmness of resolution and make her submit to his disgraceful suit. John being disappointed in his vicious passions, sent one of his minions to her room with a poisoned egg, with a message either to submit to his will or eat the egg. The brave girl ate it and died. At the time in which Maud the Fair was brought to this tower, her father had fled to France, and no sooner did he hear of her death than he hastened to England, joined the revolt of the prelates and nobles, was hailed by the insurgent forces, made commander of the army, and fought against John until the tyrant signed the great charter known as the Magna Charta at Runnymede. And this turret was the Royal Observatory from which Flamsteed, the astronomer, watched the stars; afterwards the Observatory was removed to Greenwich, and is now the Royal Observatory of England.

Hearing these anecdotes, we descended to the underground floor, where the vaults lie. These vaults were the old dungeons—the home of pirates, rebels and persecuted jews. In one of these damp, dimly-lighted vaults, which is called Little Ease (a crypt beneath a crypt) Guy Fawkes was locked up for his well-known concern in the Gunpowder plot of 1603. The walls of these vaults were very massive and the cells in them were most wretched places to live in, as there was neither a breath of pure air in them nor a ray of light. Next we proceeded towards the Martin

Tower, where the wizard Earl of Northumberland, the brother of Queen Anne Boleyn, Sir Walter Raleigh, and seven bishops were imprisoned. Mr. Dixon pointed out the Sun-dial placed at the top of the tower by the Earl of Northumberland for astronomical observations. We quitted this place as soon as we could and proceeded towards the Beauchamp Tower, where noble prisoners were confined, and passed on our way the spot where the unfortunate Queen Anne Boleyn was beheaded. In memory of that event a tablet is placed there by the gracious command of our Queen, the Empress of India. On entering this prison tower, Mr. Dixon pointed out to us the Bell tower, in which a large clock is hanging, and other towers, and then took us along the State Prisoners' Walk to the Belfry. The room under this is the strongest room in the whole. From this room escape was impossible, it was the only part of the Tower from which no escape had ever occurred, and the most important prisoners were confined here. The Princess Elizabeth was here confined, and also her cousin, Lord Courtney, who was imprisoned at the age of twelve and lived here for 18 years. A very curious and interesting story was narrated concernig this room; when Sir Henry Wyat was imprisoned here, in the reign of Richard III., he was kept in the strictest manner; he had neither a bed to lie on, nor clothes sufficient to keep him warm, nor anything like a sufficiency of food. This poor and

venerable old man was in a most deplorable condition, and he would have starved there, had not God, who, as the story goes, sent a raven to feed his prophet, sent this unfortunate prisoner a cat, both to feed and warm him. Fortunately this cat came into his dungeon, and ultimately became quite a friend and benefactor to him; she used to fetch him one pigeon every day, at whatever time she could get one, and the keeper used to dress it for him. This peculiar provision kept him alive till he was released by his master Henry, after the battle of Bosworth, for fidelity to whom he had suffered so much.

We then proceeded to the Bloody Tower, and on the way Mr. Dixon showed us the state rooms in the Beauchamp Tower, when Lady Jane Grey and her husband Lord Guildford lived. These at the present day are occupied by the Governor and Sub-Governor of the Tower and others. At the entrance to this Tower, there was a short flight of steps; Mr. Dixon walked up alone and stood on Raleigh's Walk, and told us that when Releigh used to take his walks, as he was a very tall man, he was noticed by every one going on the Thames, so for fear of something turning up, he was removed to the inside of the Bloody Tower. It was from this place, too, that Richard III. spake to the people when he was offered the crown. Mr. Dixon then came down, and we were led by a narrow and dark staircase, by the help of a candle,

into this Tower. The name itself of this Tower, "Bloody," indicates what it was. Almost every body who came to the Tower was here confined; numberless lives were here sacrificed, the royal as well as the noble and the commoner. Releigh was confined here for fourteen years; Cranmer, Latimer and Ridley all lodged here, and at last met their doom. Raleigh wrote his great "History of the World" from this abode. We then passed the small bed-chambers and the drawing-room of these persons.

Here ended our pleasant tour. Rajah Rampal Singh addressed Mr. Dixon, thanking him very cordially on behalf of the Indians, and another gentleman did the same for the rest of the party. The party then, with a thorough enjoyment of the visit, cheerful in looks, but shivering with the cold and piercing wind, broke up at a quarter to six o'clock.

AN EXCURSION TO WOOLWICH ARSENAL.*

ON the afternoon of the 17th of May a pretty large party formed as usual, left Charing Cross Station for the ‘Arsenal’ by the 1-20 P. M. train, and after a journey of some two hours, we alighted on the platform of the Woolwich Station, and at once proceeded to the main entrance of the Arsenal. The head of our party, I mean the Secretary to the National Indian Association, delivered to an officer the special order obtained for seeing the Arsenal; and after waiting for a few minutes for a guide, we were first shown into the main ‘factory’ when we saw a large party of workmen busily engaged in making bullets, torpedoes, rockets, &c., by means of wonderful machines. We paused there for some time watching the several process, admiring the rapid working of the men, and the wonderful speed of the machines.

We then proceeded towards the great ‘foundry,’ and on the way we were caught in a heavy shower of rain. We feared our visit which proved so interesting would he marred by the unpleasentness of the weather, but fortunately it soon cleared up and turned out quite a beautiful evening. After being a little while in the ‘foundry,’ we were led to all the different

* Appeared in the Journal of the National Indian Association, July 1878.

departments of this renowned Arsenal, one of the best of the kind in the British dominions, and watched with keen interest the working of machinery, some of which is among the most vast and ingenious which the world has ever produced. The British Nation may well boast of the perfection to which these Machines are carried.

Now let me tell you as briefly as possible what we observed and witnessed the performance of among those vast works. They run thus:—The casting of shots and shells, the casting of guns and the process of making, moulding and finishing them in their different stages; the ten monstrous furnaces which are used for melting iron, it is an astounding sight to cast one's eyes over the astonishing spectacles here presented, the tremendous heat which instantly melts the hardest iron, making it pour down in a torrent through its pipes like water rushing from a river; the ten-ton-hammer which we saw in action, strikes a blow of 80 tons while beating a coil of a gun, the blow was so vehement that it produced a thundering and deafening sound; the six remarkable guns, one of 38 tons, and the rest of 80 tons each are meant for the Navy. They are indeed huge things of tremendous power; the casting coil of the 80 ton gun they called its jacket.' We also saw the store-room of the royal pattern guns of different kinds, some Armstrong (which they do not make now), some muzzle-loading

and the 'mountain' guns and several other specimens of many sorts and sizes; and next the store-room of the harnesses, saddles, &c., of which there were 15,000 in readiness for the cavalry; the model room of the 'Fish,' 'Harvy' and 'Whitehead' torpedoes, the parachute light balls, the rifles of several designs, the remarkable one is the "Martin—Henry" rifle, which fires thirty shots in one minute, and carries to a distance of 2,000 yards; the main machine shop of gun carriage department, the models of gun carriages of various kinds. Then there are the specimens of various things used in battle, such as the field telegraph arrangements, the pontoon bridge, the folding boat, the doctor's carriage, and the large stove in a cart for cooking and making bread, &c., for the soldiers, and the ambulances for the sick and wounded. I may say also that we saw there bullets of various sizes and weights; that for the 80-ton-gun weighed 1,700 lbs., and one can imagine how big a thing it is, these bullets were of two sorts, one made of iron used for large shells and the other of lead for small sizes and other kinds. In every department where we went we closely examined the various objects and had them explained to us by the guide.

We also noticed some other foreign guns brought from different battle-fields. One of them was a Chinese gun, exquisitely made and exceedingly pretty to look at, and it had some inscriptions on its frame in

Chinese. There was also a quite different looking thing, a Russian gun brought from Sebastopool in 1856, which was ugly and clumsy in all respects.

I must say a few words concerning this attractive place, before I finish. This 'Arsenal' we were told, has existed for nearly a hundred years. It covers a space of 460 acres. Though Woolwich itself was not a place of interest, yet the sight of the Arsenal and the view from it over that ancient and glorious river Thames which faced it was charming. In this great establishment there were 14,000 men employed for carrying out this vast business of battle-supply, working daily from 6 in the morning till 4-30 P. M., of course they enjoy their set holidays besides Sundays.

At a quarter past five we finished our expedition among those instruments of death pleasantly and safely. The ammunition of explosive nature, *i. e.*, the gunpowder magazines, were not allowed to be seen. No doubt the place was dangerous, and I give credit to our worthy Secretary for the selection of our party. Fortunately we had a clergyman with us, two or three doctors and a lawyer, all of them needful in such a place 'to save,' to 'cure' or to 'defend.'

LONDON, 15*th June*, 1878.

CORRESPONDENCE.*

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATIONAL INDIAN ASSOCIATION JOURNAL.

I trust you will permit me through the medium of your Journal to dedicate the following remarks to the memory of a dear and most valued friend, Mr. Raees Uddin Ahmed, whose sad and sudden death has called forth deep sympathy in all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance.

The *Urdu Guide*, of the 15th of June, thus announces the sad event: "it is with deep regret and sorrow that we have to announce the untimely death of one of our distinguished co-religionists, Moulvie Raees Uddin Ahmed, who died of Small-pox yesterday, at the early age of 25 ..... "During his stay in England, Mr. Raees Uddin by his amiableness of disposition, uprightness of character, and honesty of purpose not only gained the friendship of many respectable citizens, but secured the good will and high opinion of the leading officials and statesmen of the country...... "Cut off in the prime of life and at the outset of a promising career, Mr. Raees Uddin, has left behind his old parents and a large circle of relatives and friends to lament his loss. In him the Mahome-

* Appeared in the Journal of the National Indian Association, September, 1878.

dan community have lost a useful and promising member as well as a sincere friend."

The *Hindu Patriot* of the 17th June, adds: "he joined the Bar only last year, and gave much promise of future excellence. A blooming flower has been cut off in the bud."

All who were intimate with Mr. Raees Uddin will recognise the justice of the commendations here bestowed on him, and those who knew him but slightly were pleasantly impressed with his general kindness and urbanity. His manner and bearing though simple and unassuming, showed a decision and firmness which bespoke a deal of latent character, and a noble independence which gave high promise for his future career, while added to all, was a patriotism which made him keenly alive to all that concerned the rights and the welfare of his native land.

To learn that one so young and promising had been suddenly cut off by a loathsome disease after an illness of a very few days was a shock, I might almost say a consternation to all of us here who had known him. We felt bewildered and stupified, and could hardly trust our senses. It was all too true, however, and we had only to submit with humility and resignation to the will of God, while still bewailing the loss of one who promised to be an ornament to our Muhammadan community, and still deeply sympathising with the grief of his immediaate friends and relatives, and,

above all, with the anguish of his worthy and aged parents.

I shall conclude this brief notice with the following verses kindly sent me by an English friend who was acquainted with and greatly respected our lost brother :—

IN MEMORIAM.—RAEES UDDIN AHMED.

"Upon thy home a shadow lies,
A cruel shadow dark and dread;
It dims the light of loving eyes,
It clouds the blue of azure skies,
For thou, our friend, art dead.

"Oh dearly loved! with bitter tears
We mourn thee, for thou wert our best.
Thy fame had reached our far off ears,
Men praised they powers, tho' few thy years.
Too soon thou art at rest.

And all our weeping is in vain,
We cannot raise thy fallen head,
We cannot soothe thy parents' pain,
We cannot give them back again
The dear son that is dead.

"Thy soul from out our midst departs
To live some fairer life, and we
Must check the useless tear that starts,
Yet, t'will be long ere loving hearts
Shall have forgotten thee!"

London, *3rd August,* 1878.

A DAY AT WINDSOR CASTLE.*

ON the morning of the 1st of August a party of seventeen, under the guidance of our Secretary, left Paddington Station by the 10-40 train for Windsor Castle. After a pleasant journey we arrived at the Station at a quarter to twelve. We proceeded at once towards the castle—the selected residence of the Sovereigns of England, and at present the royal abode of our Queen, the Empress of India—and entered the Prince Consort's Memorial Chapel. This Chapel is a lofty stone edifice, formerly known as Wolsey's Chapel, beneath which is the Royal Cemetery. It is magnificently decorated with exquisite mosaic work by an Italian and an English artist. We walked round the inside and saw the beautiful Mausoleum erected to the memory of Prince Albert by the Royal family.

Having finished there, we proceeded towards the state Apartments in the Upper Ward of the Castle, passing the Hon. Mrs. Ponsonby's garden at the foot

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* Appeared in the journal of the National Indian Association, November 1878.

BALMORAL, 29*th October* 1878.

"Lt. General P—presents his compliments to Miss M—and in acknowledging the receipt of the November Number of the Journal of the N. I. Association, begs leave to state to assure her that he has read with much pleasure the "Day at Windsor Castle" published in the journal to which he will call the Queen's attention, when he lays the journal before Her Majesty."

of the Round Tower, with its flower beds arranged so as to represent the "Star of India." Presently we drew near the entrance of the state Apartments where as the guard asked for the order of admission, one of the party advanced and delivered the order procured from the Lord Chamberlain's office. We were then shown upstairs, and after ascending a few flights we entered a small waiting room, in which there were five portraits, one of them of the Queen taken when Her Majesty was young. We awaited the attendant, who was then otherwise engaged, for more than half an hour, until our patience was nearly exhausted. At last he appeared, opening the door of the 'Queen's Audience Chamber,' and with a polite bow he welcomed us in.

Here I must pause for a moment to tell the reader that were I to attempt a detailed description of all that is to be seen here, the account would be altogether too long; as however, I am expected to give an account of what we saw, I shall make it as succinct as possible, and therefore, I trust, the reader will overlook my short-comings.

The attendant showed us the following Chambers, at the same time relating several histories, which were very interesting:—The Queen's Audience Chamber, the Presence Chamber, the Guard Chamber, Waterloo Chamber, St. George's Chambers, the Grand Banqueting Hall, the Grand Reception Room, the Throne

Room; the Ante-Throne Room and the State Ante-Room, the Queen's State Drawing Room, or Zuccarelli Room, the Vandyck Room, formerly the ball room, and the Grand Vestibule.

The ceiling of the Queen's Audience Chamber, painted by the Italian artist Verrio, represented a Queen in the charactor of Britannia, sitting in a triumphal car, drawn by swans and attended by Flora, Pomana and other goddesses, proceeding towards the Temple of Virtue. The ceilings of other chambers are not less attractive, every one of them presenting some interesting subjects. The rooms are tastefully adorned with costly and stately furniture of every description. Velvet cushions, sofas, chairs, some red, some blue, some green, some yellow, and some of mixed colours; handsome carpets of various descriptions; the colours of the walls differing one from the other; the fine paintings and beautiful specimens of Gobelin tapestry on them; the magnificent Gothic windows and French doors; the splendid mirrors of rare value, and the beautiful chandeliers, especially those in the Grand Reception Room, are truly marvellous. The collections of portraits, tapestries, landscapes and other paintings, by great masters, are exquisite and unrivalled. The beauty and grandeur of this splendid suite of rooms afford infinite interest and pleasure, but also touch the heart. I do not think any human being could seriously study these splendid works without feelings

of gratitude to the Heavenly Father for the gift, skill and ingenuity which he has bestowed upon his creature.

Among all these chambers, the Presence Chamber or the Grand Reception Room was supreme in excellence. It is 90 feet long, 34 feet broad and 32 feet high. It has magnificent windows, with plate, glass, and opens upon a charming and extensive view over the parks and adjacent country. The style of the room, excepting the magnificent windows, which are necessarily Gothic, to correspond with the exterior of the building, is that of the time of Louis XIV. and the woskmanship is admirable. The ceiling is supported by a large and richly ornamented cone, which forms part of the cornice, and this again is enriched by ornamented scroll-work of the most beautiful description, with flowers and birds in the centres, together with the royal arms, and over the two fire-places and doors are the initials G. R. IV; while large and splendid looking glasses and costly carved work occupy other portions of the room. The floor is of oak, parquet, the oak being inlaid with fleurs-de-lis in ebony. The furniture is of the grandest description, and in style uniform with the room, solidly gilt and covered with crimson damask. There are four chandeliers suspended from the ceiling, and they are of the most beautiful design and workmanship, composed of ormolu, interspersed with cut glass, branches and pen-

dants. At the north end of the room is a magnificent malachite vase, presented to Queen Victoria by the Emperor Nicholas of Russia, and on either side is a Prussian granite vase, presented to King William IV, by Frederick III. of Prussia. The walls are hung with fine specimens of Gobelin tapestry in six compartments, the subject being the "History of Jason and the Golden Fleece."

I may say a word or two about the Banqueting Hall. This grand hall is 200 feet long, 34 feet broad and 32 feet high. Here we noticed an immensely large Banqueting table 200 feet long and a huge fire-place. We also saw the coronation chair, made of oak, richly carved, the music gallery, the full-length portraits of the Kings and Queens of England from James I. down to William IV., and the shields and emblazoned armorial bearings of the Knights of the Garter, and representation of several of these knights and also those of Edward III. the founder of the order, and of his son, the Black Prince. In the state Ante-room there is a large harpsichord used by Charles II. and also a painting on glass of George III, in his coronation robes, from a painting by Sir Joshua Reynolds. In the Grand Vestibule, besides other things, I may mention that there were two small pieces of brass ordnance, formerly belonging to Tippu Sahib, Sultan of Mysore, and taken at the capture of Seringapatam,

one of which is most elaborately and tastefully embossed and inlaid with gold. After fully enjoying the pleasure of a visit to these royal apartment, and after everything was shown to us, we were led out through a narrow passage.

We next proceeded to the royal stables, which are a private establishment belonging to Her Majesty. They contain about 60 horses and 14 carriages of four or five kinds. The horses are fine looking, quiet, well fed, well cared for, stout and healthy; they looked very happy and seemed loyal too. Different carriages were pointed out to us and different horses used by our Queen and the royal family, and epecially the nice light carriage and a pair of ponies which our Empress and Princes Beatrice often drive. These creatures of the royal mews have also pet names, such as "Puss," "Destiny," "Foxglove," "Breeze," "Fidget," and so on. There are two Arab horses presented to Her Majesty by Victor Emmanuel, and they were the best of the whole lot. Before we left the mews, our attention was particularly called to two of the oldest chargers, kept there in separate stalls, but near each other; they are old pensioners, and do not do any work, our Queen's benign kindness is bestowed upon them, for they used to be ridden by herself and the Prince Consort during his life time. Since His Royal Highness's death they have been pensioned off. One of them I remember was 32 years old.

The next thing we went to see was the Private Apartments of our Queen, an order to view which is rarely given, unless on some special occasion, but we were very lucky indeed to get a special order of admission to them from General Ponsonby through the influence and kind exertion of our worthy Secretary. We were very pleased to obtain the order. In the meantime, as we were asked to wait a little while, so that some attendants might get ready to take us in, we loitered for some time in a shady place near the Round Tower. Presently we strolled to the East Terrace, from which we had a lovely view of Eton College and its pretty scenery on the side of the Thames, whose silvery waters were gently and smoothly passing on. Beneath part of this terrace there stands a large orangery, which has been extensively planted; and the remaining sides form a sloping lawn, which descends from the rampart to a handsome flower garden. The view from this spot is truly classic and magnificent. Benches were placed here and there on the terrace, some of us sat down on them, some leisurely strolled on the Grand Promenade, which has a long walk of 978 yards, and some were cheerfully talking to each other. There was a bright sun, not a spot of mist or cloud was to be seen, for the sky was perfectly clear, and while the soft breeze scented with the sweet fragrance of the flowers was gently fanning us, we feasted our eyes with this lovely prospect. What a happy few minutes we spent there!

In the meantime we were informed that we could now go to see the Private Apartments, and we hurriedly proceeded towards them through the Castle gate. At the entrance we met three attendants, who escorted us through a long hall to the corridor of the apartments after ascending some flights. This corridor extends 120 feet in length, ahd 22 feet in breadth, and opens by folding doors into the principal rooms. It is crowded from end to end with articles of rare value, beauty and novelty, and among which the following may be mentioned:—A painting representing the "First Ball" in England given by Charles II; Queen Victoria's First Council, which met at Kensington Palace, 20th June, 1837, immediatly after the death of William IV; the Queen in her coronation robes, on the 28th June, 1837; the ceremonies of the Royal Marriages of Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort at St. James's Palace, 10th February, 1840, and of the Prince and Princesses; a view of a boat race, seen from the "Babi Palace," Venice; the Grand Arch of Constantine at Rome, with many other subjects of interest. There are many busts and portraits of sovereigns, princes, dukes, earls, barons, knights, warriors statesmen, authors and other celebrities; several magnificent cabinets filled with rare vases, China of various designs and of immense value, and a splendid collection or other things too numerous to be here mentioned. We also noticed, among other objects of

interest, a large ebony cabinet, beautifully carved, which belonged to Cardinal Wolsey; the statue of Edward VI. at the Queen's Staircase, and the bust of the late Lady Augusta Stanley, wife of the Dean of Westminster. While returning from the extremity of the corridor, we were led to the Queen's private sitting-room, whence we had a charming view of the three-mile-walk, which goes in a straight line between two beautiful rows of trees, and there was also a fine view of Windsor Forest. There are also two large and splendid mirrors placed opposite to each other, which produced a wonderful effect by their reflection of the splendid objects around. We next saw three other rooms, also richly furnished, which were specially fitted up for the Duke of Edinburgh and his royal bride on their arrival from Russia.

There was another thing which greatly interested us in the Queen's sitting-room. This was a bunch of May-flowers executed in the Staffordshire Potteries, exquisitely formed in porcelain, presented to our Queen just after her coronation. The flowers looked quite fresh, real and natural, exhaled a delightful fragrance, just as would the living flowers; and this has continued for nearly 40 years.

Next we went to what is termed the Oak Room, where at present the Queen dines. Here there are two fine portraits, one of Her Majesty taken two years ago, and the other of the Duchess of Edinburgh,

and two large tapestries presented by Louis Philippe. Then going to the "White Drawing Room," our attention was called to a most affecting group of statuary in white marble, representing the Queen and Prince Consort in their life-size, attired in the Saxon costume of the ninth century. This august group is reverently kept in a sort of *almara* or cabinet on one side of the drawing room. This beautiful group touches the heart with feelings of pity and sympathy. The position of the two figures tells the tale of deep affection and present earthly separation: standing side by side, Her Majesty looking up at her husband with an expression of grief and hope combined, and keeping her right hand on his left shoulder, grasping his left in her left, while the Prince looks down at the Queen with tender solemnity, his right hand raised and pointing towards heaven. Underneath are these two lines:—

"Allured to brighter worlds,
And led the way."

Afterwards, we entered the "White Drawing Room," where the Prince Consort had his last meal before his fatal illness. It affords a fine prospect over a beautiful garden with a fountain, and the Home Park. Then we passed on to the "Crimson Drawing Room," used every night when the Court is there: at present it is under repair. From this we went to the "Green Drawing Room," to which the Queen retires after dinner, while the band plays in the "Crimson

Room," and thence we passed to the principal dining-room, which is not much used now. The names of these drawing-rooms are most appropriate, as distinguishing their predominating colours. In the last-named room our attention was drawn to a large wine cistern, called " punch bowl." This cistern is plated with 22,000 ozs. of silver and holds 40 gallons of wine. It was used at the time of the Prince of Wales's christening, it having been filled up with mulled claret.

After finishing this much, we proceeded towards the Private Royal Chapel. This pretty little Chapel is specially constructed for the use of Her Majesty and the royal household, and is easily accessible from the domestic portion of the Castle, and is nicely arranged for the celebration of divine service. There are two pews in an elevated position, one is the Queen's pew and the other the children's pew, but now it is called the Princesses' pew, and they are handsomely decorated. In coming out we passed the retiring room of the Chapel, and noticed a clock placed on the mantle piece, which was presented to Queen Anne Boleyn by Henry VIII. on their nuptial day.

Well pleased with our visit to these Private Apartments we were let out by the way we entered, and proceeded towards the St. George's Chapel, through the Norman gate. We soon reached this ancient structure, and hurriedly went over it. This Chapel was commenced in the time of Edward IV., in

1474, its roof was put up by Henry VII., and it was finally completed, with rich decorations, during the reign of Henry VIII. Many vaults of royal personages were pointed out to us. Here the royal marriages are generally solemnized. On the walls were hung all the banners of the Knights of the Order of the Garter, with their insignia, coats of arms in brass, and the names or initials of the holders. Here our attention was called to two vacant places, which we were told would soon be filled up by the banners of Lord Beaconsfield and Lord Salisbury, who recently received the Order of the Garter. Our attention was also called to Prince Consort's Memorial Window, which is splendidly executed. At the west end of the South aisle of the Chapel we noticed the Duke of Beaufort's Chapel; the Memorial monument of Her Majesty's illustrious father, the Duke of Kent; the Cenotaph of the Princess Charlotte, the only daughter of George IV. and some other tombs.

By this time the day had far advanced, we were all famishing, consequently we hastened to the White Hart Hotel, where our dinners were previously arranged, and we dined very heartily there. After finishing dinner our Secretary wrote a note expressing our feelings of gratitude to General Ponsonby, who so kindly gave us permission to view Her Majesty's Private Apartments, and, being signed by everyone of us, it was forwarded to him. We next proposed to see the

Round Tower, but unfortunately we could not do it, as the time was up and it was closed.

Thus our pleasant tour ended at a few minutes to five o'clock P. M., and having spent a full day at this famous Castle, and enjoyed ourselves exceedingly, the party broke up, some going on the river for a row, some in the direction of the beautiful lake named the Virginia Water, and some towards the Metropolis.

THE INDIAN MOTHER-IN-LAW *

TO THE EDITOR.

I HAVE read with much astonishment and pain in the last month's *Journal* an account of the "Indian mother-in-law" written, I presume, by a Parsi gentleman of Bombay, judging by the name. His account of the treatment which young Hindu wives receive from their Mothers-in-law seems to me so strange and is so little in accordance with all I know on the subject that I shall be glad if you will permit me to make a few observations on the matter.

"English Philanthropy," the writer says, "has done battle with many an evil genius of this country. It has considerably shaken the power of caste and custom, and well nigh exercised the demons of ignorance and superstition. It has discovered wisdom and valour in our men, and purity and virtue in our women." "One of the social evils of this country," he says, is the "Indian Mother-in-law," who in this case is the "mother of the bridegroom elect." When the new made wife enters for permanent residence the house of her husband's mother, her state we are told is that of a slave, or rather of a slave of slaves, that in fact of the meanest and most neglected of house-

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hold drudges. The formidable Mother-in-law "appears in her true colours." There are no more pettings for her daughter-in-law, but perpetual complaints of her work in most abusive language. She is called a "fury, a witch, an ill-omened owl, a dark souled sorceress," and the like. Sometimes the Mother-in-law breaks a water pot against her head, and in fine ill-treats her in a most brutal and shocking manner. The boy-husband, who had been at school for six hours of the day, coming home in the evening takes part in the trial of his wife before the court of his mother, with its jury of neighbourly housewives. The boy at the summing up of the case being instigated by the malign influence of all present becomes enraged, and ultimately joins his mother in maltreating his unoffending wife. Lastly, we are told that this treatment is the cause of frequent suicide by young wives, an evil which "we can safely trace" in many cases to the misrepresentation of the Mothers-in-law, and the brutal violence of husbands, who are said to maim, to brand, or to bite off the nose and ears of their wives; and in fact the mother-in-law is at the bottom of every mischief.

We have no fault to find with what he states of the effects of English philanthropy; we are delighted to accept the praise of Dr. Knighton when he says that Indian daughters are "*models of womanly excellence;*" ut if this be so, how does it come to pass that these

same daughters became as mothers-in-law such brutal and pitiless tyrants, or that these despicable young husbands manage in the end to acquire the wisdom and valour with which Indians are here credited?

The faults of this paper consist in its sweeping generalizations. As far as Hindus are concerned no exception is made. It is not a few bad mothers-in-law that are spoken of; on the contrary, no others are implied or alluded to. Such sweeping generalizations are plainly inconsistent with nature and experience.

Surely India is not inhabited by one or two sets of people only, but there are numerous nationalities there. How then is he justified in generalizing his attack by using the term "Indian mother-in-law," while it is the Hindu people whom he has in his mind. I am glad that he has excluded the Muhammadans, although *Prima facie*, people might be led to believe that they also come under the tyrannical sway of the mother-in-law; but he says, "Muhammadans are very fortunate in this respect." As I am myself a Muhammadan you might ask me what reasons I have for interfering with the subject which does not concern me in the least, either directly or indirectly, except that in fairness and justice I wish to speak for my Hindu brethern.

Having come from that part of the empire, I mean Bengal, where the Hindu population is far greater than at Bombay, or I might fairly say greater than

any where else in the empire, and having been familiar all my life with their customs and habits, and associated with them almost every day of my life, I class myself with them in fellow feeling and sympathy, and cannot avoid protesting against the monstrous injustice done them in this writer's description of the Indian mother-in-law.

We are told that the "timid new made wife" when she enters the house of her mother-in-law, instead of becoming an object of affection and kind treatment, is thrown into an abject state of misery and drudgery; instead of finding a happy and agreeable home she enters the house as a slave—nay, the slave of slaves, the meanest and most neglected of household menials, and exposed to every cruelty and ill treatment. People dare not maltreat their servants because there is *engrejiraj* (or English Government,) but there is no fear as regards this so called slave or meanest menial. *Engrejiraj* does not go so far, I suppose. It seems to me quite an absurd thing that those inhuman practices go on inside the house and yet neither the father-in-law of the girl, nor her husband, nor any one related to her takes any cognizance of them. How can it be possible, or how can we trust ourselves that there ever should exist such barbarous practices? I do not know as far as experience goes that any nation cares so much as the Indians do in the task of marrying their

children. If an Indian mother has any care in this world it surely centres in her anxiety as regards the marriage of her children. I need not touch further on this point after the interesting paper of Mr. Mankar on "Hindu Marriages."

We are not told how the writer reconciles this brutal treatment with the charming picture of beauty and grace and goodness which he previously draws of Hindu girls. We are not told how creatures so good and interesting as girls should be turned into heartless tyrants by the mere fact of becoming mothers-in-law, or how those whom they have victimised should when becoming mothers-in-law themselves repeat on other innocents the cruelty from which they have so keenly suffered. One would think that their own experience would have the effect of filling their minds with love and sympathy rather than with harshness and hatred.

He says he can cite instances which would make our skin creep, but individual instances do not cover all that is implied in the term "Indian Mother-in-law." It may be perfectly true that he has had such experiences in Bombay, but if so then he ought to have confined himself to that part only, instead of indulging in sweeping generalizations.

A word about the beating, maiming, branding, or biting off of the nose or ears of wives. He asserts without hesitation that these charges are no exagger-

tion. I only know that I for one have never before heard of such things. Does he mean that they are done among educated people, or in the better classes generally? If not, why not make distinctions?

O mother-in-law! have you no words to speak out in your defence? or are you to keep quiet under these aspersions? Poor woman! how badly you are treated by your own countryman! How detestably your life, which was known to be pure and simple, affectionate and loving is misrepresented to the civil-lized races of the world through the medium of a journal which is so widely spread!

. . I trust I have said enough to show the injustice of such sweeping accusations as are made in the paper in question. The writer himself must, I think, on reflection feel that he has not justified his positions by anything like tangible evidence, while he has failed to perceive that the praises which he has bestowed on Indian women in one portion of their lives are clearly contradictory of the charges which he has brought against them at another portion.

LONDON, 11*th December* 1878.

PICE SAVINGS' BANK FOR INDIA *

"I wish I could write all across the sky,
in letters of Gold, the one word Saving's Bank."

Rev. W. M. MARSH.

I FEEL much diffidence in taking up the important subject of the introduction of Pice† Savings' Bank in India, for, though it may appear trivial to many, yet it touches the interests of the Empire in many ways, and could these banks be established in a newer and better form they would assuredly prove greatly beneficial to the general mass of the people.

There are many, I know, far better able to deal with this subject than I can pretend to be, still as the present opportunity seems favourable, I trust I shall be excused for calling attention to the matter.

There has been much discussion of late on Indian affairs in some able articles which have appeared in two or three numbers of the "Nineteenth Century." These have been contributed by Miss Florence Nightingale; Mr. Hyndman, and Professor Fawcett, M. P., and it is sad to learn from them that India, which once possessed fabulous wealth, "India the golden and Gem-like," was bankrupt or on the verge of

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† A pice is less than a half penny. It is quarter of an anna which is nominally 1½d.

bankruptcy. Such is the opinion of Mr. Hyndman, who has treated this subject ably, thoughtfully and disinterestedly, and his statements are amply borne out by another recent publications, a pamphlet entitled the "Poverty of India," a copy of which I have had the honor of receiving from the author, Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji, of Bombay, a worthy country man of ours, who has written with great acuteness, enthusiasm and patriotism; and this excellent treatise ought to be read by every Indian who feels the least interest in his country.

Nor must I forget to make respectful mention of Miss Nightingale, whose womanly excellence is so universally known, and whose gentle voice and deep sympathies raised in favor of the poor peasants of India have called down upon her name their grateful blessings.

At a recent meeting of the National Indian Association, held on the 13th March, for considering and discussing the means of rescuing the Indian cultivators from the usurious dealings of the money-lenders by way of co-operative systems, which so largely prevail in this and many other countries on the continent of Europe, the paper read by Mr. E. V. Neale, who is a great authority on such matters, and who has also devoted his time, care and zealous energy in organizing the co-operative system which has become

successful among those of his countrymen for whom it was intended, was highly interesting.

The chair was also deservedly occupied by Mr. Hodgson Pratt, late of the Bengal Civil Service, whose zeal, untiring patience, perseverance and labour in bettering the condition of the working population of his own country have been so meritorious. Mr. Neale's able paper was extremely interesting and the proceedings generally were very satisfactory. I need not go into the details of the paper, as it appears in this number of the journal.

The four propositions of the co-operative scheme which Mr. Neale has drawn up are very clear and considerate, and I believe practicable if they are properly carried out. The same may be said of the view taken of the scheme by the worthy chairman when he observed that it was "a promising means of applying a remedy which, if the people took it up, might become productive of incalculable good in lessening an enormous and growing evil—that mass of indebtedness which weighs down numbers of the industrious peasantry of India."

I fully concur and heartily approve of all that has been said by these gentlemen, but I am inclined to differ in one respect, or rather to propound a new proposition, which I have offered in my heading, that is, to establish Pice Savings' Banks throughout India. In my humble opinion, and looking at the difficulties to be surmounted in carrying out Mr. Neale's scheme

from the want of that energy, self-denial and patience which he himself possesses, the Pice Savings' Bank will be the proper thing to begin with before the co-operative systems are adopted; since it supplies that which the various speakers at the meeting felt to be the essential requisite for success, namely, capital to form co-operation. Therefore, let the people first save and accumulate that desired capital which they ultimately will want to carry on the business of co-operation. And as Archbishop Sumner says: "The only true secret of assisting the poor is to make them agents in bettering their own condition."

The numerous Savings' Banks with their branches that exist in Great Britain and Ireland in almost every county, principal town, district, and even parish, are admirable institutions of their kind. The usefulness of and the great mass of savings collected in these institutions by the working people, artisans, shopmen, servants and others is well known. These accumulations are indeed great national concerns and have conferred inestimable boons upon the public.

The Savings' Bank system was first started by Miss Priscilla Wakefield, in the parish of Tottenham, Middlesex, towards the close of the last century, her object being mainly to stimulate the frugality of poor children. Having found the experiment so successful, she extended the plan of her charitable bank and included adult labourers, female servants and others.

She was followed by the Rev. Joseph Smith, of Wendon, and then by Dr. Duncan. Both of them were successful. In 1808 a similar institution was formed at Bath by several ladies of that city, and about the same time Mr. Whitbread proposed to Parliament the formation of a National Institution "in the nature of a bank, for the use and advantage of the labouring classes," but nothing came of his proposal. However, the good example given by Dr. Duncan in stimulating the minds of the poorer classes for bettering their condition was followed in many towns and districts in England and Scotland, in every instance the model of his parish bank was followed, and its self-sustaining principal was adopted. The Savings' Banks thus instituted were not eleemosynary concerns, nor dependent upon anybody's charity or patronage. Their success rested entirely on the depositors themselves. They encouraged the industrious classes to rely upon their own resources, to exercise forethought and economy in the conduct of life, to cherish self-respect and self-dependence, and to provide for their comfort and maintenance in old age by the careful use of the product of their industry, instead of having to rely for aid upon the thankless dole of a begrudged poor rate.

At length the establishment of Savings' Banks with these objects began to be recognised as a matter of national concern, and so in1817 an Act was passed

which served to increase their number and extend their usefulness. Then the Post office system came into use and the Penny Banks appeared. One of the latter, which started at Greenock about 36 years since and has ever been flourishing, is a most striking illustration of savings raised out of that small sum a "penny."

What a pity that such useful institutions for the poor do not exist in my country! can they not be made as useful there as they are here, and used for the same purposes? I cannot imagine for a moment why the Indian peasants and cultivators, who are far more sober, simple in living and more laborious than those of other countries, should ever be oppressed by the monstrous practices of detestable money-lenders or remain ignorant of the *art of saving.* If they do not habituate themselves in early life to the use of this art they will never be able to surmount the overwhelming difficulties which lie in their way, or to rescue themselves from the excessive oppression of money-lenders. Hence I heartily appeal to my well-disposed and patriotric countrymen in order that they may exert their influence to the higher authorities for the establishment of Pice Savings' Banks in India, so as to improve the miserable lives of their poor fellow subjects.

It is now high time to take cognizance of the danger in which the people are involved, as they have so recently been pronounced bankrupts. Therefore, it

cannot be lost sight of in the interest of their creditors that the Government, as a principal party in the formidable concern, should before long appoint liquidators for the liquidation of the goods and effects of those unfortunate victims under their bankruptcy, and also should not allow the dissolution of that partnership, by adopting the new banking system, so as to guard them from any further extortion by money-lenders, and in securing their confidence place their business on a better and firmer footing than it now holds.

Hence I should suggest that the Pice Savings' Banks ought to be placed in the hands of, and organized by the Postal authorities, of course under the immediate control and supervision of Government; because the Post offices are numerous in all parts of the country, so that it can be easily managed. Of course laws and regulations must be framed for conducting the business, and for paying the depositors certain interests as a stimulous to draw them in.

May I in conclusion express my ardent wish that the Indian Press,. which is so widely diffused all over the country, will give publicity and support to this proposition; and I also trust our honorable and right-minded countrymen who are councillors and are to be found in the Council of every Presidency will advocate this cause in their legislatures for its speedy adoption in the country.

LONDON, 13*th April* 1879.

AN AFTERNOON AT HATFIELD HOUSE.*

ON Tuesday, the 8th July, a party of between forty and fifty ladies and gentlemen, the latter chiefly composed of Indians, met on the platform of the King's Cross Station of the Great Northern Railway, and at five minutes to two P. M., started for Hatfield, accompanied by Mr. Hodgson Pratt, who kindly undertook to give information concerning the house of the Marquis of Salisbury. I was myself with five other friends a little late in arriving at the station, and found that the party had started some two or three minutes before; but, luckily, we caught the next train, which was an express, and we were able to join our party at Hatfield House at a quarter of an hour later. We were very sorry to have missed Mr. Hodgson Pratt's introductory lecture on the house and its noble owners, which he delivered in the marble hall or dining-hall on the ground floor, to the left on entering the house; as we entered he terminated his discourse, but he very kindly repeated a portion of it for us. However, I trust I shall be able to give the substance of what he said from his paper, entitled "A few words about Hatfield House and the Cecil," as he has kindly lent it to me for this purpose. Before

* Appeared in the journal of the National Indian Association of October, 1879.

going into details of what we saw subsequently, let me state as succinctly as possible some points of great interest connected with the house and its historical associations.

The lovely spot in the county of Hertfordshire in which is situated Hatfield House, "one of the stately homes of England," used to be called Heathfield, or Bishop's Hatfield, and now simply Hatfield, belonging to the Cecil family, from which sprung our present Marquis of Salisbury. The Saxon King Edgar, who reigned from 959 to 975 A. D., granted Heathfield to the Abbots of Ely (in Cambridgeshire), and it is spoken of in Domesday Book. These Abbots held the land until the reign of Henry I., the youngest son of the conqueror, when it was given to the Bishop of Ely, thence it received the name of "Bishop's Hatfield." Afterwards the Bishop of Ely sold this manor to Queen Elizabeth, and subsequently King James I., in 1608, exchanged it for another village in the same county with Sir Robert Cecil—the founder of the present house—the son of Lord Burleigh, Queen Elizabeth's great and wise Minister of State.

From this place King Edward VI., who was kept and educated here, was, after the death of Henry VII., 1547, conveyed by the Earl of Hertford and a number of the nobility and gentry to London for his coronation. And from here Queen Elizabeth, who resided, or, in fact, was kept in custody of Sir Thomas Pope during

the reign of her sister Mary, was brought to London after her sister's death, and was there crowned amidst the great joy and approbation of the kingdom. While residing at Hatfield Elizabeth's life was more than once in danger, and in the play called "'Twixt Axe and Crown," which was acted lately at the Queen's Theatre, one of the scenes was laid at Hatfield.

When Queen Elizabeth was on the throne it was said of the regard she had for her great and wise Minister, Lord Burleigh, the ancestor of our present Marquis: "No arts could shake the confidence she (Elizabeth) reposed in her old and trusty servant. She sometimes chid him sharply, but he was the man whom she delighted to honor. For Burleigh alone a chair was set in her presence, and there the old Minister, by birth a plain Lincolnshire Esquire, took his ease, while the haughty heirs of the Fitzalans and the De Veres humbled themselves to the dust around him. His royal mistress visited him on his death-bed, and cheered him with assurances of her affection and esteem; and his power passed with little diminution to a son who inherited his abilities, and whose mind had been formed by his counsels."

This distinguished man, Lord Burleigh, was born in 1520. At the age of 21, by his great abilities, he began to fill many important offices, of the state under Henry VIII., Edward VI. and lastly, up to the close of his life, under Queen Elizabeth. It was he who

enabled the Princess Elizabeth (afterwards the Queen) to escape the various snares laid for her by Mary, and when subsequently she came to the throne he was appointed again Secretary of State, and thence, up to his death, he directed the affairs of the realm, because the Queen knew his value and generally yielded to his advice. He was created Baron Burleigh in 1571. But notwithstanding these favours and considerations of the Queen, he had a hard time of it, for Elizabeth, while secretly approving of his admirable policy, publicly blamed him whenever she desired to shield herself from unpopularity. "His vigilance, unceasing application to duty, and unimpeachable integrity, enabled him however to overcome all difficulties. He was distinguished for self-command and moderation; he never spoke harshly of his enemies, nor embraced any opportunity of revenge." He possessed great discernment in discovering men of talent for public business; and seemed resolved that England should be distinguished above all nations for the integrity of her judges, the piety of her divines, and the sagacity of her ambassadors. The encouragement he gave to *open discussion*, as *tending to the discovery of truth*, is an admirable idea which is only now beginning to be recognised by the rulers of most European countries. His faith had been endeared to him by persecution; his piety was exalted by the sacrifice of his interests to religion; as he was wont

to say, "I will trust no man if he be not of sound religion, for he that is false to God can never be true to man." When he died at the age of 78 years he had been Prime Minister for upwards of 50 years.

After the death of the Great Burleigh, his son, Sir Robert Cecil, succeeded him as Prime Minister of England, and subsequently was confirmed in that appointment on James the First's ascending to the throne, and he proved himself one of the ablest ministers of his time. In 1604 Sir Robert Cecil was made Viscount Cranborne, and the following year Earl of Salisbury. In 1608 he became Lord High Treasurer of the realm, and effected a great many reforms in the Exchequer. From this time we come to know him as the first Earl of Salisbury, and it was he who built the present mansion, which is considered one of the finest specimens of the Elizabethan period of architecture. The gateway and west-end of Hatfield House, built previously to reign of James, is still standing. The Earl was engaged in building this grand Palace from 1605 to 1611, and it is most marvellous to learn that this ingenious man worked himself both as builder and architect, having only a stonemason and a carpenter to assist him. Now tracing from him we find that the sixth Earl was created the first Marquis, and from him descended the present Marquis, who is the eighth Earl and third Marquis of Salisbury. The present Marquis was

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born in 1830, and previously to the death of his elder brother, in 1865, he bore the title of Lord Robert Cecil, and then took the name of his brother, Lord Cranborne, which his son now is known by.

Having thus far given the history of Hatfield House, of its noble owners and their titles, I may now advert to what we saw there. First came the marble-hall or dining-hall, a spacious hall having a great many portraits on the walls, a large table with chairs and other furniture, and a huge fire-place. Among these portraits the principal one was that of Queen Elizabeth, which represents her as *Diana.* She was taken in that character because she was "the Virgin Queen." There was also a portait of Mary Queen of Scots, painted six weeks before her death, and one of Queen Mary of England and her husband Philip, King of Spain. This hall is frequently used for entertaining at grand dinners, the distinguished guests of the noble Marquis and Marchioness when they are at Hatfield House.

Then we came to the armoury, which has an entrance to a promenade walk, and in front of which is a beautiful garden. This armoury is a lengthy hall containing many bronze guards in arms, standing in a row. They, though lifeless, looked as if they were fully awake in keeping watch upon the palace of their master. These speechless, motionless images, deformed in shape and dreadful to behold, as

they stand thus in uniform with deadly weapons, do not take notice of clime or season, but with soldiers' spirit stand bravely bearing the cold and the heat, immoveably fixed and dutifully fulfilling their assigned purposes. At present they serve an additional purpose to that originally set for them, for they shed light in the armoury, as gas has in modern times been introduced into them. At the end of this armoury there are placed opposite to each other two large brasiers with Turkish crescents on them. These brasiers were brought from Constantinople when the Marquis of Salisbury went to the Court of His Majesty the Sultan of Turkey as British Plenipotentiary in 1876. Near one of these brasiers there is also kept a marble bust of the Marquis's father.

Leaving this memorable bust on our right, we followed Mr. Hodgson Pratt and the housekeeper through a narrow passage to the private Chapel, which is used for divine service by the family and the household. This is a pretty little chapel, nicely decorated, and has comfortable seats covered with red velvet. The windows are beautifully painted with Scripture pictures, and have inscriptions under them denoting their meanings. Some of the windows are as old as the house itself. The body of the chapel contains beautiful carvings and designs in oak. From the inside we also noticed around the side walls of the upper gallery, where the family sit at prayers, a number of

Scripture portraits. It has also a fine organ recently put up, the old one having been removed to another part of the house.

After inspecting the chapel we ascended a few flights of steps of an oaken and well-varnished staircase and entered the "oak dressingroom" and then the "oak bedroom," where our attention was called to a gold embroidered counterpane, exquisitely made and brought from Constantinople, and also some fine tapestries on the walls. From there we got into the "walnut bedroom," so named from all the woodwork being walnut. Here the grandmother of the present Marquis, the Dowager Marchioness, was burned to death in the fire which destroyed a wing of the house in 1835. There, also, a portrait of her hung on the wall. From the window of this room a beautiful view was obtained over the long walk through rows of trees on both sides. Leaving this room we came in front of the chapel from the side of the upper gallery, where our attention was drawn to a massive chair used by Queen Anne. There was not much of stately appearance in the chair, but no doubt *it* was an imposing piece of furniture in Queen Anne's days. I believe it is kept here simply in memory of her.

From this place we passed to the long gallery, which is 160 feet in length, and was greatly admired by us all, as it must be, I should say, by every one who has had the pleasure of visiting it. This long

gallery is used every day as morning sitting-room when the Marquis and family are at home, but in fact it is the ball-room. The roof is magnificent, being richly gilt, and the floor is of oak and beautifully polished. This hall is elegantly furnished, and on the walls are several paintings of the Tudor period. Among them are portraits of Henry VIII. and of his unfortunate wives, numbering half-a-dozen; and also portraits of Edward VI. and of Richard III., the latter taken in 1483, which represented Richard's well-known habit of fingering his rings and dagger. There was another peculiarly interesting article kept on a wheel—viz., Queen Elizabeth's pedigree on *vellum*, showing her descent from Adam.

We were next shown into the library, evidently the chief resort of the Marquis. This was a good-sized library, well stocked with books and suitably furnished. There were several albums lying on the tables containing photographs of his friends and others. We were called to observe the massive portrait in mosaic on the mantlepiece; it was that of the first Earl of Salisbury, the builder of this house. Then we noticed the portrait of the late Lord Cranborne, the elder brother of the present Marquis, who was a man of considerable attainments and reputation, although he was blind. From the window we viewed the stables, which were seen on the right hand, just before entering the park gate. They were

formerly the old palace where Queen Elizabeth and Edward VI. lived. Between those buildings (which are still laid out in the same style as prevailed in the Elizabethan period) and the present house is the private garden. This garden faces the library and looks very pretty. On the corner were four mulberry trees, which we were told had been planted by James the First, who came to the throne in 1603.

Next we came to the winter dining-room. The aspect of this large room, with its huge fireplace and its furniture, needed no telling that it was meant for the winter. Especially such a winter as the one we had recently so keenly experienced, there could not have been a better or more comfortable room for battling against the severity of the season than this was. There we noticed the portraits of the Duke of Wellington, of Charles I., Henry VII., George III., and also of Henry the Fourth of France—the best king that country ever had,—and there was also Kneller's portrait of Peter the Great of Russia.

Getting out to a small hall we noticed Queen Anne's wooden *cradle* in which she slept when an infant, and subsequently we saw in the long gallery a peculiar kind of straw hat which Queen Elizabeth wore when sitting under an oak tree in the park, and where she was proclaimed Queen of England after the death of Mary, and was immediately brought to London. These two things did produce a considerable amount of

curiosity or interest in our minds. Fancy, the good Queen Anne slept in that very cradle, and the mighty Queen Elizabeth wore this hat! In our days I should think that even the poorest of the poor would not care to use either of them. Ah! what a glorious march of events! At this end of the gallery which we had not previously examined there were several articles of China-ware placed in a cabinet and also stuck on the wall, and there was a large piano too. We were also shown some curtains brought from Constantinople. Then we passed into the billiard-room where among many portraits, we particularly noticed a fine one of the Duke of Wellington. The next room was his bedroom, and we observed here fine pieces of French Gobelin tapestries.

In the same wing of the house we visited a pretty suite of rooms communicating with each other, beautifully furnished and kept in readiness, as we were told, for the reception of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, who were coming on a visit on Saturday. These were beautifully fitted up. One was the bedroom which had been occupied by Her Majesty the Queen and H. R. H. the Prince Consort when they visited the house in 1846. The bedstead in the bedroom was covered with a gorgeous-looking counterpane richly embroidered all over with gold on velvet, and above the pillow was the Royal Crown fastened to the bedstead. In the dressing-room were

portraits of the Queen and the Prince Consort, drawn in pencil, and taken while they were staying here.

We next passed to James the First's bedroom, and saw the bed on which he used to sleep, the bed stead with its counterpane, the chest of drawers, the old arm-chair and other chairs which were indeed very fine and pretty looking. Next we saw the Queen Anne's room, which had some very fine Gobelin tapestry in it; and then we entered King James's room, or the winter drawing-room. Here we found some relics of old times collected and kept in a glass case, such as the first pair of hand-knitted stockings worn in England by Elizabeth, given to her by Sir Walter Raleigh, the crystal-faced watch of the time of James the First, and Queen Mary's string of diamonds. This was a spacious room, magnificently furnished and containing a vast number of curious things; in short, it was superior to all the others. It contained several portraits, as that of the present Marquis in the dress of Chancellor of the University of Oxford, those of his mother, grandmother and brother, and that also of the present Marchioness and her eldest son, Lord Cranborne. There was a good collection of beautiful Cashmere shawls, and many things from China and Japan of admirable workmanship. There was also, placed in a silvercase, the document conferring on the present Lord Salisbury the freedom of the city of London on his

return from Berlin at the termination of the late Russio-Turkish War.

We were now let down by the principal staircase, which also was made of oak, and which being highly polished was very slippery. One of us did slip, but luckily he did not hurt himself. Here also were a good many portraits. We particularly noticed two of George III and his wife. After this we entered the summer drawing-room, where we were shown the portrait of the Lord Burleigh, and saw the old organ. Then we went to the yew-room, where we saw the celebrated picture of Elizabeth, by Zucchero, in a dress emblematical of her various qualities; meaning that she was proud as a peacock, cunning as a serpent, all eyes and ears, because she could not be deceived, and holding the rainbow the pledge of peace. There was also another portrait of Mary Queen of Scots at the age of 17, set in the mantelpiece.

Last of all we visited the charming room set apart as the sitting-room of Lady Salisbury. It contained furniture of the choicest description, and on the centre-table was a vase of lovely and fragrant flowers. At the side of the vase was a beautiful silver box, which was pointed out to us as the last year's Christmas present from Lord Lytton to Lady Salisbury. This box was of Indian workmanship and was of special interest to us Indians. Here, too, we saw Sir Joshua Reynolds's portrait of Lord

Salisbury's grandmother, and another portrait of the Earl and Countess of Northumberland and their child. Then we came out again to the armoury, and then passed to the hall to sign our names and addresses in the visitors book kept there. As it was then raining hard we waited in the armoury facing a large garden till the shower ceased; and after a few minutes' delay came out on the promenade, from which we had a lovely and extensive view of the neighbouring country. The weather being now unfavourable and our time limited we did not venture on making any distant excursions; we took a round of the house and came in front of the maze, but did not venture to explore it though greatly tempted to do so, for we dreaded to miss our train. We next directed our course towards the park, and walked through an avenue of large trees which have stood there for ages. We halted for a moment near the memorable oak tree where Queen Elizabeth was seated with her straw hat on. This oak was kept within a railing, and almost all of it, save the trunk, is broken down, perhaps by storm or something of stronger nature; however, we were pleased to find that it was not dead, a small branch was coming out with bright leaves. After this we proceeded towards the grove, and reaching it stood on the sloping bank of a rivulet, from which we had a splendid view.

Fully satisfied, we turned back to the park by the

way we went, passing the stables and the church on our left, and arrived at an hotel for the purpose of taking some tea. As we needed some refreshment after our afternoon's task, pleasant and agreeable though it was, we did justice to our repast, and felt quite hearty and well prepared for our journey to the metropolis.

Our tour at last came to a close! Although we came out in spite of the miserable weather, in spite of threatening rain and of occasional drizzlings or sometimes down pourings, although we feared our anticipated pleasure would be marred and the desired trip would be spoiled, yet with all this our visit proved a success, and well repaid our trouble, and ultimately we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. Now we bade adieu to the stately mansion, or more deservedly the kingly palace, of the noble Marquis, and, thankful for his permission to view his house, we safely returned to London and separated at about eight P.M.

August 1879.

20, Arlington Str., S. W.

"Lord Salisbury presents his compliments to Mr. Syud Abdur Rahman, and begs to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of a copy of the "National Indian Association Journal" containing an account of Hatfield House."

October 6, 1879.

FIRST LITTLE SPEECH.

*" Mr. Syud Abdur Rahman said:—" In spite of my diffidence in public speaking I cannot sit quiet at this moment after listening to the paper of our lecturer. So I hope I shall be excused if I venture to encroach upon the time of the meeting by making a few remarks on the paper which has just been read. Mr. Rogers paper is very interesting ; and I am sure every one of us, although it is one-sided paper, can easily give credit for a wider scope. But his discourse has been directed to the Anglo-Indians among the natives of India. On this ground his views are peculiarly interesting, as he has so thoughtfully brought forward before this large audience, or I might fairly say, before the British public, a subject which touches keenly the relations between the natives and Anglo-Indians, and which also involves that question of fellow-feeling which ought to exsist between them. (Hear, hear.) For myself I do not know during my Indian life a single case in which natives have been socially associated with Anglo-Indians (hear, hear)—though in many instances they are so in official capacities. What is the reason of this? Who is to blame? Is it we or they ? or is it that they exhibit themselves quite as different beings from what we find them

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*Appeared in the Royal Colonial Institute Proceedings vol. X, 1878-79., And in the Weekly Paper called The Colonies and India.

here ? Surely the fault does not lie exclusively on one side only. Being conscious of faults, I cannot but feel that blame rests on both sides. It is we who forget what is due to ourselves, and stoop too submissively, and thus tempt them to treat us I will not say harshly and scornfully, but with less consideration than is due to us. When an Englishman lands on our Indian soil, where everything bespeaks freshness and novelty, and finds people making so much fuss about him that he who has just come out, it may be, from the dingy, foggy, and smoky atmosphere of London, or has never before seen such genial sunshine, or has met with a quiet and meek race of people, he becomes some what bewildered, and not unnaturally takes things differently from what he does among his own people. We ought no longer to keep ourselves in the back-ground, but should mingle with our Anglo-Indian brothers on the same footing on which we are received by Englishmen in England. This is the lesson which we are now learning, after having breathed the free atmosphere of enlightenment and civilisation. Under the benign rule of Her Majesty the Queen and Empress of India, our life and property are secure, education is spreading, civilisation is marching with giant-strides, and people are rapidly progressing; and I hope the day is not far distant when we Indians shall make no distinction between Englishmen and ourselves, but shall unite together in a common bond of friendship, good-will, and fellow-feeling." (Applause.)

SECOND SPEECH AT THE NATIONAL INDIAN ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE.

* "Mr. Syud Abdur-Rahman spoke as follows :—
"We are assembled here to night to discuss a subject of great importance, which is brought before us under the form of the two following questions. In the first place we are asked, "What are the causes which lead the educated class of Indians to prefer Government service to commercial and industrial enterprise?" Now this is a question which concerns the interests and well-being of the great mass of the people of India of all denominations, creeds and castes. To give a satisfactory answer to this grave question would require an amount of time, thought and experience, to which I can make no pretention, and this time and thought it will, I trust, receive from some amongst us who are able to handle such a subject in a suitable manner.

As regards this first question, there are many causes which have led to the practice here alluded to, and of these I will content myself with a brief reference to some three or four. In the first place, a young man may have no sufficient means for entering into commercial and industrial pursuits; or, secondly, if he have such means, he may have no inclination to such pursuits; or, thirdly, he has been brought up

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* Appeared in the Journal of the National Indian Association, May, 1880.

under influences calculated for giving him a dislike to them; and, fourthly, he may stand without the support, encouragement or patronage of wealthy people. Of these four I need allude to the last two only. Suppose an Indian gentleman is a Deputy-Magistrate, he has one or more sons, and he has been appointed as such under the recommendation of some one who is recognised as his patron. His son grows up, goes to school or college and finishes his education. What do you suppose this son will have learnt besides his school studies? From infancy to manhood he has been reared on one thought, one idea, namely, that he must be a Deputy-Magistrate, or a Munsiff, if not, that he must have some employment under Government, otherwise he will degrade his father's name or calling. A shoemaker must be a shoemaker, if his ancestors were such, and a cobbler must remain a cobbler. You talk of conservatism,—if you want its radical meaning you will find plenty of that faith in India; the people there are always anxious to conserve, always anxious to do as their forefathers did, whether it be beneficial or detrimental. Now as to the fourth head. Take the case of a Raja or Maharaja: he will not hesitate to lay down a large sum of money for a show or to get a name from the Government, but he will not display a half or quarter of his liberality in any national cause or enterprise. Only the other day I read in the "*Hindu Patriot*" that one Maharaja has given £1,000

to chess players that they may cultivate their art thoroughly in the country. Fancy that money employed for such a purpose as that? I see here an intellectual circle of my countrymen, and let me hope that these gentlemen who are looked upon as the pioneers of the future of my motherland, will have a stout heart, an independent spirit, and liberal ideas, and that we may all combine together and instil into the minds of our brethren the knowledge of the prosperity and civilization which this great nation of England has attained through commercial and industrial enterprise.

In the second question we are asked, "What means can be suggested for bringing about a different state of things?" Roughly speaking I should say, "Don't give these young men any Government employment." Perhaps it may be thought unfair to suggest a course like this; very well, but then the matter wholly rests in the hands of individuals themselves. It is only they who can bring about a different state of things, unless some substantial change be previously effected, first by means of establishing commercial and industrial schools in all parts of the empire; secondly, by setting up mills, factories, or other machinary tending to such aims, whether in the Native States or elsewhere; and, thirdly, by forming private companies and carrying on mercantile or other industrial transactions. This is all I have to say.

But before I sit down let me express the hope that many of the earnest friends of India will take this matter seriously up, and that what shall have been said and resolved on to-night will not be suffered to die within these walls, but will be carried out into suitable action, and I especially hope that the framers of the two questions before us will be able to suggest some course of action likely to lead to objects which we all, I trust, have here in view."

*A BRIEF SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF AKBAR.

(Read before the Indian Society).

GENTLEMEN,

I have no time to preface the subject now before us, viz :—" A brief Sketch of the Life of Akbar." I shall, therefore, commence at once, after asking your indulgence for all the short-comings which you will meet with in the following pages, as it would be impossible for me to do anything like justice to the important subject before us, a subject to which eminent Historians have given the labour of years and on which they have produced extensive works.

In the year 1542, A. D. Jallaluddin Muhammad Akbar, the grandson of Babar and Seventh in descent from Timurlane, eldest son of the Emperor Humayun and of his wife Hamida-Banu Begum, was born on the 14th October at Amercot in the Valley of the Indus under most peculiar circumstances. Humayun, being twice defeated in battle through the treachery of Shir Khan Sur, grandson of Ibrahim Khan who claimed to be descended from the family of the kings of Ghor,

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* A Review appeared in the Journal of the National Indian Association.

and subsequently the Usurper of the Throne of the Moghul Emperors, fled with his wife and a small retinue and endeavoured to find shelter in many places without success, but at last, after having undergone innumberable hardships on his way through deserts and difficult paths, he obtained succour and protection under the roof of a Hindu, named Rana Prasad, of Amercot where he and the struggling survivors of his party were hospitably received and promises of aid were given to him in his attempt to gain a footing in Sindh which he had lastly lost.

It was here after some months of exile had been passed in this obscure state of existence that his son Akbar was born. The works of God are marvellous and His doings mysterious! No one knows how or why a thing is done and yet it is done complete, perfect and secure. Elphinstone rightly says in his History of India, "It was this period of depression and affliction that gave birth to Akbar, a prince destined to raise the Indian Empire to the greatest lustre that it ever enjoyed."

Just previous to the birth of Akbar, Humayun had gone to Sindh and there received this happy news and according to the custom of a Royal Household', he having no presents to give, except one pod of musk, he broke this up and distributed it among his adherents with a wish that his son's fame might be diffused throughout the World, like the odour of that perfume.

And indeed, Humayun's wishes were realised for his son's name and fame were spread through the world.

It can well be imagined that the youth of an Emperor so highly descended, and born under circumstances so lowly, should indeed be stormy. The delights of ruling, once enjoyed, could never in those days be lightly given up; and even Humayun abandoned by all but his Hindu Protector, still dreamed of the Palaces of Dehli and the lost Secptre of Hindustan. The thirteen years that followed the birth of Akbar were thus years of incessant warfare. The young Prince may be truly said to have been bred in arms. Scarcely was he 3 years old when he was exposed to a hostile fire under the walls of Cabul. Thrice, before he had reached the age of ten years he was taken prisoner by his uncles who were bitterly hostile to his father and to himself. But he escaped from their hands in 1551, and after the final defeat of his uncle Kamran in that year, he joined his father, placed himself under his command and finally accompanied him in that triumphant March, commencing at Cabul in January 1555, followed in June, with a great Victory over Sikandur Sur at Sirhind, and terminating in the autumn in the capture of Dehli and thereby restoring Humayun to his ancestral throne. A few months later Humayun died, and his newly conquered territory, still bleeding from the contests for its possession, devolved upon his son Akbar, then but a few months over 13 years of age.

Akbar received the news of his father's death in the Panjab whither he had been sent as the nominal head of an army, but the real commander was Bairam Khan—a Turkoman by birth, distinguished for his talents and whose fidelity to the cause of the legitimate representatives of the House of Timur, had been proved upon many a battle-field. Akbar, on hearing of his father's death at once assumed all the ensigns of royalty, but though unusually manly and intelligent for his age, he was obviously incapable of administering the Government, so Bairam Khan, his tutor and adviser and also the most confidential officer of his father, was made the real head of the Government with the title of "Baba Khan" equivalent to that of "the King's father."

Soon after Akbar's accession to the Throne, news came of the loss of Cabul and some portion of Afghanistan and this was followed, a little later by the startling intelligence of the capture of Agra and Dehli by Hemu, the Hindu General of the last representative of the House of Sur, and who was also preparing to crown his victories by a march into the Panjab. However, Bairam was equal to the occasion. He accompanied the young Emperor in the direction of Dehli, encountered Hemu at Paniput. Here, a severe battle was fought, Bairam was victorious and Hemu, made Prisoner. On this occasion was displayed a striking trait in the character of the Young Emperor.

When Hemu was brought into his presence, Bairam was anxious that Akbar should strike the first blow at the Captive and thus by imbruing his sword in the blood of such a distinguished infidel, should give for himself the title of "Ghazi" or "Champion of the Faith." But the spirited boy refused to strike a wounded enemy and was deaf to all persuasions, Bairam, grieved at this refusal, became irritated by these scruples, himself struck off the captive's head at a blow, exclaiming, "Ill-timed compassion will lose you an Empire."

Soon after this, the cities of Agra and Dehli were restored to Akbar and before long he was obliged to return to the Panjab, in consequence of receiving the news that Sikandar Sur had taken possession of a great portion of the province. A campaign of eight months sufficed to quell this uprising, and to deprive the insurgent leader of his strongest fortress, and force him to retire into Bengal, to which the House of Sur considered that they possessed an hereditary right. During this period, however, the virtual ruler was Bairam. But his arbitrary Government and the general discontent arising from, became the cause of his fall. And it may be said that from this period dates the real restoration of the House of Timurlane. Bairam was now at the highest pitch of greatness ever reached by a subject and already began to show indications of decline. The pressure of his rule was

severely felt, and was rendered more intolerable by some of the vices of his nature. His temper was harsh and severe, his manners haughty and overbearing. He was to the last degree jealous of his authority, exacted, unbounded obedience and respect, and could not suffer the smallest pretension to power or influence derived from any source but his own favor.

These qualities soon placed him amidst a host of enemies, and, in time, alienated the mind of the king, now advancing towards manhood, and impatient of the insignificance to which he was reduced by the dictatorial proceedings of his Minister.

Akbar's indignation was at last roused by several acts of gross injustice and even by his atrocious crimes committed by Bairam not only upon private people but also upon high courtiers and great officers of state, who were constantly harassed by Bairam's distrustful temper, provoked by his persecutions to justify his suspicions of their enmity. At last, Akbar was constrained to take such course as would free him from the thraldom in which he was held. He found an opportunity of accomplishing this object: Having concerted a plan with those around him, he, while on a hunting expedition, on the pretence of his mother's sudden illness, left his party unexpectedly and set out for Dehli to see her. As soon as he was out of the sphere of the Malign influence of his minister, he issued a Proclamation, announcing that hence-

forth he had taken the Government into his own hands and forbidding all to recognise, or give obedience to, any orders issued by any other authority than his own.

Bairam, knowing that these proceedings were directed against him, strove in vain to regain the king's confidence, but Akbar, no wise mollified by this submission, dismissed him altogether from the court. Twice or thrice Bairam revolted against the Emperor, and attempted an invasion of the Panjab, but he was disappointed in the reception he met with in that Province. He was there defeated and brought into the presence of Akbar as a Prisoner.. Here, Akbar shewed great kindness to him, being moved with compassion and recollecting the great services he had rendered as his former minister, he bestowed royal favors upon him, and after investing him with a dress of honor, gave him the choice of either accepting one of the Principal governments under the crown, a high station at Court, or an honourable dismissal on his pilgrimage to Mecca. He chose the latter, and while preparing for his embarkation, he was assassinated by an Afghan, whose father he had killed in battle during the reign of Humayun.

Akbar was now placed in a difficult position. The charge which he had taken on himself seemed beyond the strength of a youth of eighteen; nevertheless, the

young king had unusual advantages, both by nature and education, and thus left alone to carry out the brilliant policy of securing his authority over his chiefs and of recovering the lost dominions of the crown, previous to establishing in them that systematic arrangement; which had either never existed or had been seen obliterated in the revolutions of so many changing dynasties. "Of all the dynasties, says Elphinstone, that had yet ruled in India, that of Timurlane was the weakest and the most insecure in its foundations. The houses of Ghazni and Ghor depended on their native kingdom, which was contiguous to their Indian conquest and the Slave dynasties were supported by the continual influx of their countrymen; but though Babar had been in some measure naturalised in Cabul, yet the separation of that country under Kamran had broken its connexion with India, and the rival of an Afghan dynasty turned the most warlike part of its inhabitants, as well as of the Indian Mussulmans, into enemies. The only adherents of the house of Timurlane were a body of adventurers whose sole band of union was their common advantage during success."

This want of support was shown in the easy expulsion of Humayun, as well as in the early difficulties of Akbar's reign. On these considerations, Akbar formed the noble design of restoring and consolidating the Empire by putting himself at the head of the whole

Indian nation, and making the inhabitants of that vast territory, without distinction of race or religion, into one community. This wise policy was strictly and steadily pursued throughout his reign. He admitted Hindus as well as Muhammadans to every degree of power, raising them to the highest stations in the service, according to their rank and merit.

I shall now briefly refer to his military achievements and to his general administration during his long and glorious reign.

In the first year of his reign, his territory was confined to the Panjab and the country round Dehli and Agra. Hearing of some pretensions by Hajikhan, a *Ghulam* of Shir Khan Afghan (or Shir Shah), to rule in Alwar Akbar sent a General with a select force to attack him. Hajikhan fled before the Imperial army arrived, so Alwar was easily taken. But the fugitives proceeded to *Dewati-Majari*, a strong place, which was the home of Hemu's family. Much resistence and fighting followed and Hemu's family was destroyed and the General returned with much spoil and 50 elephants to the Emperor.

There was at this time a scarcity of rain throughout Hindustan, and a fearful famine prevailed during for 3 or 4 years. The Emperor ordered alms should be distributed in all the cities, and Nawab Shaikh Farid Bokhari, being ordered to superintend and control

their distribution, did all in his power to relieve the general distress. Public tables were spread, and the army was increased, in order to afford maintenance to the poor people. A kind of plague also added to the horrors of this period, and depopulated large cities, to say nothing hamlets and villages.

In the second year, intelligence arrived that Khzir Khan Khaja, the Governor of Lahore, had been defeated by Sikandar Afghan, the Emperor, therefore, set out for Lahore, to oppose the victor. When Akbar reached Jalandhar, Sikandar fell back to the hills. The royal forces pursued him and came up to his camp. Sikandar then shut himself up in the fort of Mankot, whether the imperial Army followed and laid seige to the fort. After a prolonged seige of nearly 6 months, Sikandar, being hard pressed, requested that some confidential noble might be sent in to arrange terms with him. Accordingly Atka Khan was commissioned to perform this duty. When he entered the fortress, Sikandar in very deprecatory terms begged that he might be permitted to retire to Bengal promising to remain faithful in his allegiance and offering to leave his son as a hostage. This request being communicated to the Emperor, he graciously acceded to it, and Sikandar accordingly sent his son Abdur-Rahman, along with Ghazi Khan Sur, and with them several war-elephants and various articles of tribute. So, the fort was surrendered to the royal

forces which then marched to Lahore and thence after an absence of 4 months and 14 days returned to Dehli.

In the third year, Akbar acquired Ajmir without a battle; early in the fourth, Gwalior, the vincennes of an Eastern Versailles, fell before his arms; and previous to the fall of Bairam, the Afghans were driven with loss from the fertile province of Oudh, Akbar also obtained the country on the Ganges as far east as Jaunpore. His time was next taken up with a revolt in Malwa, and with a second insurrection in the Panjab; and order had scarecly been re-established in the Kingdom of the five rivers, when the king was compelled to proceed in person against his rebellious subjects, Bahadur and Zaman Khan. The rebellion was only quelled by an act of daring bordering on rashness. The enemy were encamped on the bank of the Ganges, which was then rolling down its turbid waters in the very height of the periodical rains. No boats were procurable, and the officers would fain have restrained the impetuous Prince. But Akbar was not to be daunted by any dangers of flood or field, and mounting his elephant, he gained the opposite bank, attended by about one hundred of his body guard. In the morning, after a forced march through a country almost impassable, he was joined by Asuf and Mujnun Khan with the garrison Kurra; and the Usbek rebels;

whose night had been spent in festivity, were astounded on suddenly hearing, in the very front of their line, the deep ominous sound of the royal *Nakara*. Yet they formed into order, and the struggle was obstinate, until the death of one of the rebel chiefs, disheartened their troops, and the Emperor was left undisputed master of the field.

By this time that Akbar had completed his twenty-fifth year, he had crushed his adversaries by his vigour or attached them by his clemency, and had time to turn his thoughts to foreign countries. The first which attracted his attention was that of the Rajput Princes. Bahara Mal, the Raja of Ambar now Jaipur, was always on a friendly terms with Akbar, and had, at an early period, given him his daughter in marriage; and at the same time both the Raja and his son Bhagawan Das, were admitted to a high rank in the Imperial Army.

Akbar now commenced operations against the famous fortress of Chittor, where the Rajput chief Jaimal—one of the most chivalrous of his high-minded race—had entrenched himself with more than 10,000 men. The approaches were made by Akbar with great skill, caution and regularity and his trenches judging from the minute description of Farishta, seem to correspond with those of mode[rn] Europe. At a given point, when the works [had] reached the enemies' walls, the train was fired, b[ut]

some irregularity one mine exploded before the other, and the attack was unsuccessful. The work had now to be recommenced, but the Emperor, when visiting the scene of action at night, perceived Jaimal by the light of a torch, superintending the repairs of the breaches and immediately shot him dead. The beseiged Rajputs had now no resource but their despair. They resolved not to leave any female captive to grace the conqueror's triumph, and so immolated their wives and children at the funeral pile of their deceased chief. The next morning Akbar advanced to storm the breach, but not a single enemy was visible. Shut up in their temples, they calmly awaited the attack and died under the sword to the number of 8,000. Akbar, in triumph then returned to Dehli.

The Rana of Chittor or Udaipur, notwithstanding the loss of his capital, remained independent in his fastnesses. Nine years afterwards his son and successor Rana Pratab was deprived of his strongholds of Komulnor and Gogunda and was compelled to fly for a time towards the Indus. But, unlike his father, he was an active high-spirited Prince, and his perseverance was rewarded by success; before the death of Akbar he recovered a great portion of his dominions and founded the new capital called Udaipur which is still occupied his descendants. According to Tod's Rajasthan, house, alone, of the Rajput royal families, has ed all matrimonial connexions with the Em-

perors of Dehli, and has even renounced all afinity with the other Rajas, looking on them as contaminated by their intercourse with an alien race. Such matrimonial connexions were zealously promoted by Akbar, and were long kept up by his successors. He himself had two Rajput queens of the houses of Jaipur and Marwar.

In the 7th year of Akbar's reign, one of the gracious acts of his Majesty, was the prohibition against making slaves of prisoners taken in war. It had been the custom of the royal troops in their victorious campaigns in India, to forcibly sell or keep in slavery the wives, children and dependents of the natives. But his Majesty, actuated by religious, prudent and kindly feelings, put a stop to that inhuman practice.

In the Eighth year was made a remission of the Pilgrim tax. Formerly it was an old custom with the rulers of Hindustan to exact contributions, according to their respective means, from the Pilgrims who visited the holy shrines of Mecca and Medina. This tax was called *Karmi*. His Majesty's Judgment and Equity condemned this exaction, and he remitted it, although it amounted to *krores* of rupees. An edict was accordingly issued abolishing it throughout his dominions.

His ninth year was equally noted for another of his munificent acts. He remitted in it the tax called

jizya (poll-tax upon the infidels) which in a country so extensive as Hindustan, amounted to an immense sum. Here, I shall read to you a letter by a Hindu Prince of Rajputana to the Emperor Aurangzeb, the great grandson of Akbar, on the revival of the Jizya tax in his time, as it will best illustriate the tone of Akbar's Government and the light in which it was regarded by the Hindus themselves : "Your royal ancester, Jallaluddin Akbar," wrote the Hindu Prince, "whose throne is now in heaven, conducted the affairs of this Empire for 50 years with firmness and Justice, watching over the tranquillity and happiness of all classes of his subjects, whether they were followers of Jesus, of Moses, or of Muhammad, whether they were Hindus or materialists or believers in accident or chance. All enjoyed, to the same degree, his favour and protection ; and thence it is that the various populations under his rule, in gratitude for his paternal care, have decreed to him to the title of "Benefactor of Mankind."

The next thing we notice during this reign, was the subjection of Guzerat which occupied Akbar for a considerable time, and the reduction of that important Province had scarcely been completed when intelligence arrived at Court that Muhammad Husain Mirza, with another rebel chief, was investing Ahmadabad. With a number of men scarcely amounting to 3,000, Akbar marched there to meet the rebels. A sharp conflict ensued, and the king, again exposed to con-

siderable personal risk, was at the end successful. He entered Ahmadabad after the death of both insurgent chiefs, and returned by Ajmir to the Capital.

This event was followed by the conquest of Bengal. Rajah Todar Mal, afterwards the famous revenue minister, was sent there with a large army to conquer its weak monarch, Daud Khan. A battle was fought on the shore of the Bay of Bengal, and Daud was allowed to retain the district of Orissa, while Bengal and Bihar acknowledged sovereignty of the Emperor. Daud on several occasions, attempted to regain Bengal and Bihar, but he was ultimately defeated and his death terminated these disputes.

By this time the whole country from the Sunderbunds to the Indus had thus been overrun by victorious armies, but was still anything but secure. As soon as the royal presence no longer inspired the necessary awe, disturbances broke out, and again the royal armies were on the move. For the first fifteen years of the reign we have little else but marches and countermarches, at all seasons of the year and thro' the worst of Countries. Hakim Mirza kept the Panjab in a flame, while the Afghans ravaged Bengal and Muzzuffer despoiled Guzerat. At length, by the exertions of able officers such as Raja Todar Mal, Raja Mansingh, Azizor Azim Khan, these tumults quelled, and Akbar, from the year 1586, might deem himself the master of India from the Himalayas to the sea.

In the twenty second year, the imperial mint which had been under the management of a Chandhari, was divided and placed into the hands of able governors in different provinces.

In the Twenty fifth year, a census was taken. An imperial mandate was issued directing the *Jagirdars*, *Shikkdars*, and *Darogas*, throughout the empire to draw up, village by village, lists of all the inhabitants, specifying their names and occupations and these lists should all be collected together and sent to the Emperor.

In the 27th year of his reign, his Majesty directed his attention to the management of his territories and passed various laws regulating the revenue and civil affairs generally. Rajah Todar Mal was appointed minister of finance. This unambitious man who was acquainted with all the mysteries of administration, was now elevated to this important post. His clear judgment soon set matters to rights. Civil and revenue matters received his especial attention. Careful to keep himself free from all selfish ambition, he devoted himself wholly to the service of the state, and thus earned an everlasting fame. He directed his skilful and powerful mind to the simplication of the laws; and allowed no grasping or intriguing men to obtain any influence over him. He proposed several laws calculated to give increased vigour, all of which were sanctioned by Akbar.

Akbar's instructions to his collectors of revenue, on whose judgment and discretion so much depended, deserve to be recorded. "The Collector, we extract from the Institutes of Akbar, a work compiled under the Emperor's direction by his able minister Abul Fazl, "the Collector must consider himself the immediate friend of the husbandman, be diligent in business, and a strict observer of truth, being the representative of the Chief-Magistrate. He must transact his business in a place to which every one may find easy access, without requiring any go-between......... His conduct must be such as to give no cause for complaint. He must assist the needy husbandman with loans of money, and receive payment at distant and convenient periods. When any village is cultivated to the highest degree of perfection, by the skilful management of the head thereof, there shall be bestowed upon him half a *biswah* out of every *Bighah* of land, or some other reward proportionate to his merit. Let him learn the character of every husbandman, and be the immediate protector, of that class of subjects. Let him promote the cultivation of such articles as will produce general benefit and utility, with a view to which, he may allow some remission from the general rate of collection. In every instance he must endeavour to act to the satisfaction of the husbandman." Every sentence in this extract shows how much the king desired that justice should be done to his various subjects.

About the middle of the 28th year, we notice another great deed of magnanimity displayed for the preservation of his subjects. According to Hindu custom, after the death of a husband, his widow used to be burnt with him on the funeral pile and this willingly and cheerfully on her part, whether she had lived with him happily or not. Occasionally the love of life holds her back, and then the husband's relatives assemble and prevail upon her to yield, they light the fire and place her upon it, thinking that thereby preserve the honour and character of the family. But since the country had come under the sway of his gracious Majesty Akbar, inspectors had been appointed in every city and district, who were to watch carefully over these two cases, to discriminate between them, and to prevent any woman being forcibly burnt. About this time, Jaimal (son of Mal Deo) who had been sent to Bengal, died of sunstroke in the vicinity of *Chansi*. His wife, the daughter of Manu Raja, was unwilling to be burned, but her son Udi Singh, with a party of his bigoted friends, resolved upon the sacrifice. This matter came to the Emperor's knowledge, and his feeling of justice and humanity made him fear that if he sent messengers to stop the proceedings, some delay might occur, so he mounted his horse and rode with all speed to the place. And he succeeded in saving the life of the victim, and placed the leaders in the affair in confinement.

The next project which occupied the mind of Akbar was the extension of his rule to the Dakkin. His first attempt was a failure, and before he tried again, he was called away to look after his own northern dominions. The Emperor was now in the neighbourhood of the northern mountains, and engaged in wars of a new description, wars attended by greater difficulties than he had yet encountered. His first success there was the conquest of Cashmir. That celebrated Kingdom is an extensive plain, situated in the heart of the Himalaya Mountains, and more than half way up their height. Placid, by its elevation, above the reach of the heat of Hindustan; and sheltered by the surrounding mountains from the blasts of the higher regions, it enjoys a most delicious climate, and exhibits, in the midst of snowy summits, a scene of continual verdure, and almost of perpetual spring. Trees belonging to different climates are scattered over its surface, while fruits of various kinds and flowers innumerable are poured forth with spontaneous profusion over the hills and plains. The level country is watered by streams, which issuing from the upper valleys, flow down the mountains, and collect in different places, especially in two lakes, whose varied banks and floating gardens are the boast of the Valley.

To gain this terrestrial paradise was not an easy matter. Difficult and dangerous passes were in the

way, nevertheless, barriers were surmounted and obstacles overcome, and Cashmir, the beautiful, fell into the hands of Akbar.

Shortly after this, he was engaged in wars with the north-eastern Afghans who inhabited the hilly countries round the plain of Peshawar on religious grounds, he was also in discord with another tribe called Yusufzais from near Candahar. These, however, were never overcome. Several furious battles took place, but the Yusufzais remained victorious. Akbar's favorite wit Rajah Bir Bal who commanded in these engagements was slain together with a great many men. The Yusafzais made no attempt to pursue their advantages. But Todar Mal, Man Singh and others selected and fortified positions in different parts of the country and prevented Yusafzais from cultivating their portion of the plain. By these means, according to the Abul Fazl they were reduced to unqualified submission. Akbar, however, marched against them and after exposing himself to considerable hazard, he succeeded in gaining a partial success.

Next we have to notice the important acquisitions of Sindh and Candahar. Sindh had passed from the Arghuns into another family of military adventurers and dissension having taken place among the new usurpers, Akbar prepared to conquer this territory and to bring it back to its old possessors, the

Kings of Delhi. This attempt was nearly a failure, as one of the chiefs of Sindh, drew near with his army and entrenched himself in such a position that Akbar's general could neither attack nor carry on the seige, while he was so near. But this difficulty was overcome by the sagacity of the Emperor himself, who placed the chief in a similar position and so compelled him to give up the Province to Akbar. However, he was favourably received by Akbar and was appointed by him in accordance with his usual practice, to a high rank among the nobles of the Empire.

It is mentioned in the *Akbarnama* that this chief had employed Portuguese soldiers, and also 200 natives dressed as Europeans, and these, therefore, were the first *Sepoys* in India.

Candahar was easily recovered without a blow from the Persian chiefs. This placed Akbar in complete possession of his hereditary kingdom beyond the Indus ; and nearly at the same time he completed the conquest of Hindustan.

His original intention of extending his dominions over the Dakkin was now renewed. He sent an expedition there under Prince Morad, his second son, and Mirza Khan, the Khan-i-khanan with two armies. The first siege was laid at Ahmadnagar, which was resolutely defended by Chand Sultana or Chand Bibi, one of the most distinguished women that ever appeared in India. This Princess was acting as

regent for her infant nephew Bahadur Nizam Shah, and in the battle which now followed, she fought bravely and prevented the Moghuls from advancing any further that day. However, without venturing on any more fighting, both parties were well satisfied to come to terms and so peace was agreed on, and the king of Ahmadnagar surrendered to the Emperor his claim on Berar.

The Moghuls had not long withdrawn, when fresh dissensions broke out in Ahmadnagar. Chand Bibi's Prime minister plotted against her authority and finally applied for aid to Prince Morad. This was the occasion of a renewal of war which soon extended over the whole of the Dakkin. A battle was fought on the banks of Godavari, and was maintained with great fury for two days, but its results were indecisive. However, the Moghuls claimed the Victory, but made no attempt to advance; and their ill-success, together with the disagreement between Prince Morad and the Khan-i-khanan, induced Akbar to recall them both. Abul Fazl (the author), Akbar's prime Minister, was sent to remove the Prince, and if necessary to take the command himself. Shortly after this, Akbar himself set out to join him, but before he appeared, the strong fortress of Daultabad was taken; several other hill forts also fell at the same time; and as soon as the royal army reached Barhanpur on the Tapti, a

force was sent forward under his third son Prince Daniyal, and the Khan-i-khanan, to lay siege to Ahmadnagar. Chand Bibi's government was in a more disturbed state than ever. Siege was laid to Ahmadnagar, while Chand Bibi was treacherously put to death by her own soldiers, Ahmadnagar was taken; and the young king made a prisoner and sent to the hill fort of Gwalior. After this the conquest of Khandesh was made. And then annexing this country to his domonions, Akbar returned to Agra, leaving behind him Prince Daniyal as Viceroy of Khandesh and Berar, with Khan-i-khanan as his adviser, and also Abul Fazl in command of the Dakkin and for the prosecution of the conquest of Ahmadnagar.

After these military exploits, we must take a cursory view of the internal Policy which Akbar pursued in his government. And it is to this policy alone he owes his place in that highest order of princes, whose reigns have been a blessing to mankind; and that policy shows itself in different forms, as it affects religion or civil government. Akbar displayed a tolerance in the early part of his reign which he kept up without prejudice or partiality throughout his reign, even though involving him in enmity with the bigoted members of his own creed. Among the eminent men who lived in his reign, Abul Fazl, the author of Ain-i-Akbari and his brother Faizi, may be suitably mentioned here. Faizi was the first Mussalman who

diligently studied the Hindu Literature and science. Under the direction of the Emperor, he conducted a systematic inquiry into every branch of the knowledge of the Brahmins. Faizi translated several Hindu books of medicine and astronomy, besides sanscrit works in Poetry and Philosophy, he also made a version of the *Bija Ganita* and *Lilavati* of *Bhascara Acharya*, the best Hindu books on Algebra and Arithmetic.

Akbar likewise by the aid of other learned men superintended translations from the sanscrit, of the *Vedas*, the two great historical and heroioc poems the " *Maha Bharata*" and " *Ramayana.*"

Nor were his acquisitions of this nature confined to Sanscrit. He prevailed on a Christian Priest who was learned in Science and history to educate youths so as to enable them to translate the Greek literature into Persian. Faizi himself was directed to make a correct version of the Evangelists.

Akbar often held religious and Philosophical discussions and conferences with the learned men of his Court. The king used openly to say in their presence— " My sole object, oh wise Mullahs, is to ascertain truth, to find out and disclose the principles of genuine religion, and to trace it to its divine origin. Take care, therefore, that through the influence of your human passions, you are not induced to conceal the truth: Say nothing, therefore, contrary to th

Almighty decrees. If you do, you are responsible before God for the consequences of your impiety."

We next come to the Civil Government. First is to the Revenue system, the objects of which were—(1). To obtain a correct measurement of the land—(2). To ascertain the amount of the produce of each *bighah* of land, and to fix the proportion of that amount that each ought to pay to the Government—(3). To settle the equivalent in money which the proportion so fixed should bear. I have previously alluded to these revenue regulations, so shall not say any more here.

Secondly, as to the Civil administration. The empire was divided into fifteen *subahs* or provinces, twelve in Hindustan Proper, and three in the Dakkin; and each was governed by a Viceroy who had the full control, Civil and Military, subject to the instructions of the Emperor. Under these Governments there were Military departments, Judicial tribunals and Police organization. Justice was administered by a Court composed of an officer named Mir-i-Adl (Lord Justice) and a Cazi. The latter conducted the trial and stated the law, and the other passed judgment. In cases of serious nature, the proceedings of the Bench should be sent to the Emperor and his confirmation of the sentence should be received. Capital punishment was not to be accompanied with mutilation or any other form of cruelty. And in all legal causes between Hindus, a Brahmin was to be the Judge.

Amidst the reforms of other departments, Akbar did not forget his army. He made many important reforms in it and introduced economy and efficiency into its management.

Since Akbar's return from the country of Khandesh to Agra, he was very much troubled by the refractory conduct of his eldest son Prince Salim whose personal malice and enmity made him lose his best Minister Abul Fazl. The latter, who being re-called from the Dakkin, was proceeding towards the Capital, was murdered near Gwalior by the Raja of Orcha in Bundelkhand at the instigation of Prince Salim. Akbar was deeply affected by the intelligence of this event. And his affliction was rendered still more grevious by the death of his two sons Morad and Daniyal as well as by the death of his aged mother. These calamities pressed heavily on his mind, before long he became ill and this illness proved fatal to him. He expired on the 13th October 1605 at the age of 65 after having ruled for 50 years. The government was left in the hands of Prince Salim afterwards Emperor Jahangir who had been reconciled to his father before his death. On the death of Akbar loud lamentation rose on every side and the voices of angelic cherubim were heard saying, "God created him, and to God he has returned."

> "When the Emperor Akbar died,
> Groans arose from earth to Heaven."

Gentlemen, going through the whole history of

Akbar and making ourselves acquainted with all that he had done during his reign of fifty years, we must admit that he had accomplished great things. An admirable system of justice, a contented population, entire religious freedom, an unstinted support of the Arts and Sciences, with a view to their being employed for the devolopment of the country, a universal system of education, free and open to all, irrespective of religion or creed;—these were, indeed, great blessings, blessings which the European nations of that day were far from enjoying. Knowing these things, we cannot deny him the title of "Great." Let us compare him for a moment with his European contemporaries. Let us contrast the enlightened Muhammadans of Hindustan who shrank from the shedding of blood, with the Sovereigns of England of the same period. Let us compare Akbar with the ferocious Henry the 8th, the selfish and ambitious regents Somerset and Northumberland or the bloody Mary! Let us contrast the universal tolerance of Hindustan during Akbar's reign with the fires of Smithfield! Even Elizabeth herself would suffer by comparison. The beheading of Essex stands in no favourable light by the side of the pardon of Bairam, while the feeling which prompted the death of the Queen of Scots could never have arisen in the spirit of the man who condoned the rebellion of his brother. Look again at France, for 50 years of the same period

under the despicable government of the most contemptible of men—the three last Sovereigns of the House of Valois; look at Spain, then the leading State of Europe, crushed and trampled upon by the brutal bigotry of Philip the 2nd. What a contrast do the two names present! Had the enlightened Akbar succeeded to the throne of Charles V. who can doubt that that great country would have taken a foremost place in all that nourishes the vitality and tends to the advancement of a nation? Compared these men, Akbar stands pre-eminent.

Gentlemen, if these pages should give you even a partial insight into the life and character of Akbar, I shall be quite contented and my labours will be amply repaid. In conclusion, I thank you with all my heart, for the patient hearing you have given me.

LONDON, 17*th April,* 1880.

An address delivered by SYUD ABDUR-RAHMAN, Esq., F. S. S., F. R. C. I., M. R. A. S., Barrister-at-Law, (of the Inner temple); on the occasion of a reception given him by the Madrasah Literary Club, in Calcutta; on Friday the 1st October, 1880. (With Proceedings.)

THE MADRASAH LITERARY CLUB.

A public reception was given to Syud Abdur-Rahman, Esq., F. S. S., F. R. C. I., Barrister-at-Law, who has recently returned from England, by the Madrasah Literary Club at the hall of the Calcutta Madrasah, on Friday, 1st October, at 7-30 P. M. The hall was densely crowded, there being more than two hundred gentlemen present. Among others we noticed Moulvie Abdul Jubbar, Head Translator, High Court, Moulvie Kabiruddin Ahmad, Editor, *Urdoo Guide*, Mr. K. N. Mitra, Barrister-at-Law, Moulvie Serajul Islam, B. L., Pleader, High Court, Dr. Poorno Chunder Chuckerbutty, Moulvies Ahmad, Syud Abdur Rahim, Muhammad Said, Muhammad Abdullah, Agha Muhammad Mehdi, Translators, High Court, Moulvie Mirajuddin Ahmad, Persian Professor, St. Xavier's College, Moulvies Takrimuddin Ahmad, B. A., Fazlur Rahman Khan and others.

The Hon'ble Syud Amir Hosein, Khan Bahadoor, Vice-President of the Club, having been detained at Court late in the evening, Moulvie Kabiruddin Ahmad was voted to the chair on the proposal of Moulvie Abdul Jubbar, seconded by Moulvie Muhammad Said. The Chairman then addressed the audience in Urdoo. He thanked the gentlemen present for the honour they had done him by voting him to the chair on such an interesting occasion. After a few other prefatory remarks, he introduced to the audience Syud Abdur-Rahman, Esq., F. S. S., F. R. C. I., Barrister-at-Law, the honoured guest of the evening, who came from an old and highly respected family of Jahanpore, in Fureedpore. He heartily congratulated Syud Abdur-Rahman, Esq., on his success, and bore a feeling testimony to many of the noble and graceful traits of his character. He then called upon Moulvie Syud Abdur Rahim, Translator, High Court, to move the resolution of welcome.

Moulvie Syud Abdur Rahim then rose and said that he felt very diffident in moving the resolution, as he did not consider himself quite fitted to do it thorough justice. Yet as the members of the Madrasah Literary Club had done him the honour of entrusting him with that happy task, he would not shrink from his duty. Although in his childhood deprived of his father, and obliged to struggle against many adverse circumstances, the young Moulvie had at

length succeeded in realising the dream of his life,—that of visiting England for purposes of education. Although quiet and unobtrusive in nature, the symptoms of his future excellence and greatness were evident from his very boyhood. To the young Moulvie, it must be owned, belonged the credit of having broken the ice, and of having set in motion the current of migration from India to England, which had, since his example, continued flowing on in an uninterrupted course, and carried to English shores successive batches of young Muhammadans. Genial, affable, guileless and free from humbug and affectation of all sorts, he was the very model of a gentleman. (Cheers.) Whilst in England, he never let slip any opportunity of exercising benevolence and charity towards any Indian stranger who happened to wait upon him in difficulty or distress. He worked equally hard for promoting the interests and widening the sphere of the Madrasah Literary Club, and in fact he constituted himself the manager of its Budget. To his noble and disinterested exertions was due the fact of the Madrasah Literary Club being now so honourably and widely known in England (cheers). While in the latter country, his quiet and unostentatious manners, his frank and genial temper, and above all his spotless character made him a general favourite in all circles, whether Christian, Parsee, Hindu or Muhammadan, and he had the good fortune of enjoying

the confidence and friendship of some of England's greatest men.

He was, moreover, accorded the high and enviable privilege of attending her Majesty the Queen's Levees (cheers). The speaker concluded by wishing the young Moulvie every success in his honourable profession, (applause). He then read the resolution of welcome which ran thus:—"That the Madrasah Literary Club welcomes with delight the return to Calcutta Moulvie Syud Abdur-Rahman, F. S. S., F. R. C. I., Barrister-at-Law its old and distinguished member, after four years' absence in England, and begs to express its heartfelt thanks for the great interest he had always evinced in the affairs of the Club while there."

Moulvie Abdus Salam, President of the managing Committee, on being called upon to second the above resolution, spoke as follows:—

Sir and Gentlemen,—Permit me to thank you for your kindness in asking me to second the resolution which has been so ably and lucidly moved by my esteemed friend. The mover of the resolution has already exhaustively dealt with the subject-matter of the resolution, and, therefore, I am afraid lest, in my attempt to speak, I should travel over the ground already so ably traversed by him. Labouring as I do under this disadvantage, I have still to thank you, because by calling upon me to second the resolution

of welcome you have not only done me no small honour and conferred on me no unenviable privilege, but you have played towards me the part of the good Samaritans of old. Gentlemen, startle not at the expression I use,—startle not at my calling you Samaritans. I am aware you are not hereby this evening with dishes and drinks to feed the hungry and to quench the thirst of the thirsty. But you have given me relief—not physical relief, but another relief, a higher and nobler relief,—I mean spiritual relief, by affording me an opportunity to express publicly those sentiments of high regard and close friendship which I cherish for our honoured guest of this evening, and to give vent to the joy I feel at his return in our midst (Cheers).

Speaking of the joy I feel this evening, I am reminded of the scene which occurred at the time of Mr. Syud Abdur-Rahman's departure for England. Little less than four years have elapsed since, in this very hall, and from this very spot, I was entrusted with the task of bidding our friend farewell,—of pronouncing that solemn and awful word, the very thought of which sends a thrill through the inmost recesses of every feeling heart. In vain did we then to try to glean some ray of hope, and to discern some silver lining from the clouds of depression and sorrow which hovered over our heads, and over-cast our mental horizon, by fixing the eye on the dazzling prosperity

which awaited our friend in the distant future. The distant prospect of joy was hid by the near prospect of parting; and the pain of parting, as you know, is one of the most poignant that we can suffer. Then clouds of gloom and sorrow sat brooding over every face, and with "hollow eyes and knitted brows" we bade our friend farewell. But to-day I see a total change in the aspect of things around me. No more do clouds of sorrow and pain hover over our heads,—no longer do they obscure our mental horizon. All around us are signs of brightness and sunshine, aye, every face around me seems to beam with the glow of joy. Gentlemen, all this goes to shew that you all heartily rejoice at the return of Mr. Syud Abdur-Rahman, and, therefore, on your behalf, I bid him a hearty welcome. (Applause.)

Gentlemen, the rejoicing I feel in common with you at the return of our friend is enhanced when I call back to mind our long personal relations. We have known each other for about these twelve years. In fact, living as we did for some time under the same roof, and associated together as we were at the same social board, it was but natural that we should be drawn towards each other, and become close friends. Well, gentlemen, from the exceptionable opportunities I thus have had of watching closely my friend, I feel bound to say that he bears a spotless character, a kind disposition, and a most genial and affable temper,

untainted by pride, vanity, or affectation. But, gentlemen, I am reminded that I am not standing here this evening to inflict upon you my personal effusions—to give expression merely to my individual feelings of regard and friendship for our honoured guest. I know that I am the spokesman of the Club this evening, and, as such, I am expected to express publicly the collective sentiments of the high esteem and obligation which the members of the Madrasah Literary Club cherish for Mr. Syud Abdur-Rahman. Gentlemen, ever since the revival of our Club, which dates back about seven years, Mr. Syud Abdur-Rahman has been a zealous and distinguished member. Regular in his attendance at its sittings, he was always ready to advance its interests, and always willing to render it good practical service. In fact, his practical good sense was always so remarkable, that when our Madrasah Literary Budget was in a shaky state, and its life and death was a question of time, the members hit upon Mr. Syud Abdur-Rahman as the best man to restore it to the vigour of fresh life. As long as he was here, he took the greatest interest in watching the health of the patient committed to his charge, and if the Budget enjoyed so long and prosperous a lease of life, it was, I am bound to add, in a great measure, due to the patient exertions and medical skill, as it were, of our friend. Unlike the average doctors of the present day who

cease to care for their patients as soon as they get away from them—I mean no reflection to the members of this honorable profession, a representative of which I am glad to see before me this evening—Mr. Syud Abdur-Rahman, though circumstances cut him off from us by thousands of miles continued to manifest the same zealous interest, the same unceasing solicitude in the welfare and good health of his old patient. While in England he used to send the Budget regular diet in the shape of literary and money contributions, and if the name of the Madrasah Literary Club is now so widely known abroad and in England, we owe this interesting fact to the exertions of Mr. Syud Abdur-Rahman. (Cheers.) Being under such deep obligations to him it is but right that the members of the Madrasah Club should manifest their rejoicings at the return of their zealous and sincere friend, by giving him a public reception, and by bidding him a right hearty welcome. As Bassanio said, "to you, Antonio, I owe the most in money and in love," the members of the Madrasah Literary Club should one and all say, "To you, Mr. Syud Abdur-Rahman, we owe the most in money and in love." (Cheers.) Nor was, gentlemen, the exercise of his benevolence confined within the narrow groove of our Club and its affairs. No, it was more cosmopolitan. Every stranger from India who happened to visit him in England, and wanted counsel or substantial help, found in him a sincere

friend and a faithful guide. The other day I listened with pride to the glowing, affectionate and, I believe, sincere testimoney borne by a newly arrived Hindu Barrister to the personal kindness which he had experienced at the hands of our friend. Gentlemen, he said that to Mr. Syud Abdur-Rahman there was no distinction between Muhammadans, Hindus and Parsees, who visited him in England; to him it was enough that they were all children of the same dear mother-country, and members of the same common national brotherhood. He was always ready to give practical proof of his benevolence by extending to all who sought for it shelter under his roof, and by attending in divers ways to their comforts. (Cheers).

Gentlemen, there is another point on which I think it necessary to pass a few observations, and these are suggested by the English costume in which our friend appears this evening. Gentlemen, there are people who say that all that visit England are denationalized. I scout with scorn this baseless assertion. Have not some of the greatest benefactors of India been men who lived and were educated in England? At whose name does the whole widowhood, aye, the whole womanhood of India, shed tears of gratitude? Who does not honour and revere the memory of the great Ram Mohun Roy, a man who laid down the rudiments of his social warfare in the drilling ground of British soil? I ask you seriously

to answer whether a change of costume necessarily implies a change of spirit,—a metamorphosis of nature. This much I can attest without fear of contradiction, that, although our friend may appear this evening in a strange garb, his feelings towards his countrymen are unchanged, his regard for his religion is unaltered and undiminished. Co-operate heartily with the men who return from England, put them on their trial, and till then suspend your judgment, and you will see that their pulse beats as warmly as ever for the regeneration of our country, and that they will readily share with you in all your difficulties and troubles, and in all your joys and triumphs. What is there in England, I ask these pessimists, which should denationalize us, and which should shake our firm confidence in the truth of our dear and noble religion? Gentlemen, I shrink not from saying that men who hold forth such humiliating language and go into hysterics at the idea of visiting England, slander the character of their ancestors, impute weakness to their religion, and belie the traditions of the past. They forget that in times when Islam was in its pristine glory, Muhammadans were not terrified by such alarms. They went to Spain, France, Turkey, Persia and China, without having their faith in Islam a whit shaken—aye, they merged in the common brotherhood of Islam, the nations with which they came in contact. Let, then, the Muhammadans

of India shake off their old prejudices, and visit England, not in scores, but in hundreds and thousands, and found Islambouls in the bosom of Christianity. (Cheers.)

Gentlemen, there are again others who say that we should remain contented with the rice and curry which we can easily procure in this beautiful land of Bengal, and should not let ambition haunt us, and drive us to the shores of England. Gentlemen, I must frankly confess I cannot keep patience with such talk. It was not by this spirit of self-abasement and low contentment that the great and glorious fabric of Islam was built up. If our forefathers had been actuated by this spirit of self-abasement and self-annihilation, if the leaders of Islam had remained contented with the dates of the Arabian desert and with the coarse bread which they could easily procure in their desert-homes, why, where would then Islam be this evening?—where would be the Madrasah hall in which I am standing just now? Gentlemen, I almost feel that when such humiliating expressions as these are uttered, our noble ancestors cast forth from these walls frowning looks and address us thus :—"Degenerate children, you are slandering our character, you are tarnishing our noble heritage." (Applause.)

Gentlemen, I have now only to bid Mr. Syud Abdur-Rahman a hearty welcome, with many wishes

for his prosperity in his new and noble career. The members of the Madrasah Literary Club bid him a heartly welcome, as in him they get back a tower of strength. Bengal bids him welcome, as one whom she expects to restore the fortunes of one of her distinguished families. Aye, the goddess of India, enthroned in solemn conclave on the lofty peaks of the lofty and snow-clad Himalayas, shouts forth rejoicings, and utters a hearty welcome—the echoes of whose voice thrill from end to end, from Himalaya to Comorin, from Beypore to the Brahmaputra. She rejoices to receive back to her bosom one more addition to the vanguard of that army of progress whom she expects to fight for her just rights and privileges, and one more accession to that band of heroic men whom she justly looks upon as forming the connecting links of civilisation, enlightened progress and moral regeneration between the East and the West. These men may not be heroic in the sense in which the term 'hero' is generally applied ;—they have spent no blood, nor sacrificed any lives ;—they have stormed no Troy, and therefore there is no Homer to chronicle their exploits in the pages of an Odyssey, but nevertheless, they have shelled another Troy—a stronger, nobler and more impregnable Troy—the Troy of British intellect and Western enlightenment. Gentlemen, with these few words, I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution of welcome. (Applause.)

Moulvie Serajul Islam, B. L., Pleader, High Court, supported the resolution in a few words. He was not well, yet the great interest and sympathy which he felt for the proceedings of that evening had attracted him there. He expressed his sincere gratulations at the return of Mr. Syud Abdur-Rahman as a Barrister, and wished him every success in the honorable profession which he had, by dint of his enterprise, perseverance, energy, and industry, so successfully entered. (Applause.) He hoped and prayed that Mr. Syud Abdur-Rahman might be long spared to be an ornament to the Muhammadan community. (Applause.) He held that, in spite of its some attendant risks and temptations, a visit to England was highly beneficial, and thought that those who returned from England would be the pioneers of Western enlightenment and culture in India. (Applause.)—*Statesman*, October 15, 1880.

Mr. Syud Abdur-Rahman, Barrister-at-Law, then rose up amidst cheers and replied :—

Friends and Countrymen,—I am, I assure you, deeply sensible of the honour you have done me to-day. Your kind and flattering reception has taken me altogether by surprise, since I am not aware of having done anything that could entitle me to such a welcome as this. I am not a conqueror coming in triumph from the seat of war, nor am I like my name sake Abdur-Rahman Khan assuming the

sovereignty of Afghanistan (laughter), I have not done anything that any other man might not do after having been a resident for purposes of education in that glorious country, England. If it is in this latter sense you have come forward to receive one so humble as myself, I submit willingly to your decisions, and I cannot sufficiently express the pleasure I feel in this manifestation of your friendly and sympathetic feelings in coming here to-night in such numbers. Allow me also to thank you most sincerely for the many kind and flattering allusions you have made to myself. For all this, I thank you, one and all, individually and collectively, with all my heart. And I beg to assure you that I shall value this day as one of the proudest of my life. Coming as I do fresh from England, you will, I daresay, expect to hear a good deal from me, but I fear I shall have to disappoint you in this. However, without further preface, I shall, if you will allow me, venture to say a few words and as "brevity is the soul of wit," I shall be as brief as I can.

(Read :)

Standing, Gentlemen, in this ancient hall, I am taken back to a time of which I am most proud to think. You will remember that I do not owe anything to your University, but much to this Institution. It is here I received my education. Here I was brought up for six years, and here I terminated my school-life,

with a meagre stock of knowledge it is true, but still I hope with enough to pave the way to higher aims. Neither do I forget the associations I formed while a boarder in this Institution, nor the many happy days I spent here with my school-fellows, many of whom I am delighted to see before me to-day.

Now my going to England was a matter of a personal character and of individual nature. Innumerable disadvantages were in my way, and I received no encouragement whatever. I can conscientiously assure you that not a soul instigated my actions, its suggestion and wish was entirely my own, and I might take the credit to say that several were afterwards led to follow my example. After battling as well as I could with the prejudices of my people, I at last succeeded in reaching the wished-for-shores of England. Nor, Gentlemen, did my troubles end here, but came on me in manifold ways. It would be too long to narrate the tale of my four years' existence in England, so I shall be brief. While tossing about under troubles and hardships like a ship in tempest tossed on the ocean, I cared not for the aspersions of men, nor shrank from the task to following my law studies with such little knowledge as I had acquired in India, but persevered, worked on steadily and relied on an honest labour. And now I am happy to tell you that I have overcome all these difficulties, and have reached the position which I am now proud to hold. Neither in

England have I been at any school or college, all the education I have received there, has depended entirely upon my private studies, of course with private tutors, at the same time. Gentlemen, you must not think that I was very happy under such an arrangement, on the contrary I grieved that I could not enjoy the advantages offered by the great English Universities.

England is a great country and its people is a great people. Their Universities, their Institutions for many a noble object, their statesmanship, their politicians, their naval and military organisations, their progress in science, art and commerce, and above all their freedom of speech, their liberty of the press, and their equality among their fellowmen, are unrivalled in the world. And all this has only taught me the devotion due to my own country. Looking at the bright side of the picture of my four years' stay in England, I must say I have passed many a happy day with Englishmen at their homes, at their family-hearth or otherwise, and have brought to you pleasantest recollections of their generous treatment, hospitality, kindness and their receptions on equal footing with their own people. Endorsing the sentiment expressed by my learned friend, Mr. Syed Ameer Ali, I would quote to you in recognition of my personal regard for that magnificent country, England—"Nowhere," he says, "have I found people more genial, more hospitable than in England, and in England I have

formed my lasting, I believe, many a deep friendship." But, Gentlemen, I love England for another reason—a reason that is calculated to my mind to bring about the future prosperity of our mother-country, and which ultimately will serve our purpose—it is not that we, few Indians, go their and come home with honours and distinctions at their University, but England is the only place where we meet together devoid of our caste, creed or religion, it is their we make no distinctions between Hindus, Parsees, Christians or Muhammadans, but contract fellowship, friendship and above all *Unity*. It is there alone we allow religious toleration, and at the end without further prejudice begin to unite. Gentlemen, no doubt we are a meek race of people and apt to stoop too submissively to those whom we call our conquerors or masters, but at the same time I cannot allow you to admit that we are in any way inferior to them, either in intellect, power of judgment, administering justice, or lack in our literature, philosophy or otherwise. But, Sir, we lack in one thing, that is what is conveyed by that charming word *Unity*. If we can have that union between ourselves, we can boast to the world of being called an Indian Nation. We have sufficiently shewn our merits, our capabilities, our intellectual powers by many ways, by competitions, by Public Examinations, by snatching laurels or Scholarships both here and in England from the hands of English students, and non

the less by services, in Judicial or Executive lines to Government, and by the oratorical powers of our esteemed friends Mr. Lal Mohun Ghose, Mr. Surendra Nath Banerjie and a few others.

A word I must say about my Profession. There has been a good deal of talk about so many going to the Bar, and you have this fact brought to your notice with very severe criticism. Well, Gentlemen, what is the reason of your being so much against Barristers? The answer I surmise, would be that after occasioning such heavy expenses to their parents, when they return, they cannot earn anything, being what is commonly called "Briefless Barristers." Well, that is very true, but look at the competition, look at the disadvantages the new-comers labour under, and look at the number of Barristers, Pleaders, Attorneys struggling for their livelihood. So it is no wonder that the new-comers should be without practice for a little while. You must understand, however clever the new man may be, however intrinsic the qualities and abilities which he may possess, there is at first no field for the display of his abilities. There are older men in good practice, and clients are apt to prefer going to them with their case rather than venturing to trust it to a new man. Then, again, you must have friends, Solicitors I mean, to back you up, some have and they succeed, others have not and consequently suffer most. You all know that little saying

foreign invasion or aggression upon our country, w[...] should they not serve in the army in common wi[th] English soldiers with less expenditure than no[w] burdens on our poor Exchequer, and why should not our men, if worthy, be Colonels, Majors or hold any other rank in the army just as well as Englishmen do? From my own experience, allow me to impress upon your minds that a visit to Europe even on a pleasure trip is very advantageous. By seeing different manners and customs, in going over different countries and by mixing with different people, your ideas and views become enlarged, prejudices are laid aside, you become enlightened and feel quite a different man to what you were before.

I may mention by the way that there are so many facilities now for people to go to England or to any part of Europe that you can send your children with safety, ease and comfort. That Institution, I allude to the National Indian Association, which was so thoughtfully, judiciously and disinterestedly established in London by that noble lady, Miss Mary Carpenter, whose name should be received with grateful acclamations by us all—that Institution with its numerous branches in all parts of India has conferred and is conferring inestimable boons on the Indian Students who visit England. Nor do I omit to notice that, after the death of Miss Carpenter, the Association has found in Miss Manning a no less worthy and effi-

at Honorary Secretary. I am myself under many obligations to her, and I doubt not that many others who have received similar advantages from the Association, are so, likewise. The main object of this Association, with the nature and existence of which many of you are doubtless familiar, is to bring about closer union between the two countries England and India. This object, Miss Manning, by her kindness and hospitality as well as by her energy and zeal, does her best to promote. She gives Monday evening receptions for her Indian and other friends, holds soirees three times a year, on a larger scale, convenes meetings for the discussion of Indian subjects, furnishes information ragarding studies and general requirements, arranges visits to places of interest, gives introductions to people likely to be useful and so forth. Nor does she neglect the comforts of a new arrival. Arrangements are made to receive him at the landing places and also for his accommodations in suitable quarters; all this, of course, when wished-for by the person arriving. These statements must be comforting to a parent's ear, as they show that a son, though in a foreign land, is well taken care of, and not left to solitary dulness and discomfort, for in a short time he finds himself acceptable in English societies and receivable in English homes. There is another point in connexion with this Association. There has been newly started a club inaugurated under

that "Rome was not built in a day." The secret of success is patience, preseverance and so little means of sustenance, and his day is sure come round sooner or latter. It is not expected that every one should be like Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee, the jewel of our Calcutta Bar, Mr. Budroodin Tyabjee of the Bombay Bar, or any other rising Barristers in practice, or like Mr. Sergeant Ballantyne in England, nor is it expected that every one should have his hands full of Briefs. Then I expect we shall have to quarrel between ourselves, or fight with our own men in order to make briefs. Why then grumble at the fate of a few of your own people; go and look in England, France, Germany or any other country you choose, you will meet with the same depression or failure. You argue that people going to England for the Civil Service, for Engineering or for Medicine are the only things to be wished for, because they get Government appointments; well, if they don't succeed, what then? They then come to the same level as ourselves, and have to work out an independent practice. Well, by the end of every year you turn out thousands of young men with University degrees, do they all get Government appointments? I say, no. Are you then to stop those things? or what? Gentlemen, do not be influenced with any narrow prejudices, educate your sons with as much liberality as possible, and let them choose their own vocations and fight out their own way in the world. I tell you most

didly that it would be a source of pleasure to me, d of pride to my country, if I could see all my countrymen learned whether as Barristers, Doctors or n any other profession they might choose. But, gentlemen, I commend to you most strongly and advise you most sincerely not to neglect the education of your children, send them as speedily as possible to Europe, not only for becoming such Barristers, Doctors or the like, but for general education or the learning of any special branch of study in science, art or manufacture, or for receiving a military education; you need not send them all to England, send them to German Universities for specialities or military training, send some to France or the Swiss Universities or to Italy for Fine Arts and paintings and some to English Universities. I can vouch for their receiving the best of educations, as the systems of training in European Universities are most perfect, and cannot be had anywhere else. Do not have any misapprehension on account of my introduction of the subject of military education. I have simply suggested it with a little of the patriotic feelings which I have for my country and not with any political object. Because, in the first place I never talk politics, they are too much for the scope of my understanding, and besides you can't have a better and abler man to talk to you about them than my valued friend Mr. Lal Mohun Ghose. All I mean is this, why should not our men learn military tactics, why should they not be able to fight against any

we cannot but congratulate ourselves, nor need w doubt that ere long we shall meet with the desired success. We are now strenuously following our neighbours and hope we shall ere long equal them if not in numbers at all events in merits. The good they have done for us, for the country and for themselves, makes me look upon them as Pioneers of India, and instead of being jealous or envying them in any respect, I am proud of such neighbours.

I am glad to notice another striking evidence of progress which has recently been presented among my co-religionists, and it is highly commendable that gentlemen who do not even know English have begun to feel and appreciate the value of the education that can be received in England. It is nearly four years now since I first arrived in London, and at that time there were 4 or 5 Muhammadan students besides myself, and I am happy to say that the number has increased so much that at present there are about 25. An example which has been set by one Moulvie Sameeullah Khan, a Sub-Judge in the N. W, Provinces, and a man who does not know English, is a good sign for the future. This gentleman has taken his son and two young Muhammadans of that province to England for the purposes of giving them an education and I heartily wish that many others would follow his example.

Perhaps it would not be unbecoming to say that ne of the scions of the distinguished family of Moulvie Syud Zainuddin Husain Khan Bahadur whom you all know, I mean his youngest son Dr. Syed Hassan has obtained a signal success at the last Indian Medical Service Competitive Examination in taking the first place among the Indian Competitors and 5th in the list. This intelligence should be received with rejoicings as alone showing the capabilities of a working mind among one of us.

One other point I should like to call your attention to, and it is so delicate, so important, yet so difficult, that it heavily weighs on my mind. I refer to the education of those amongst us who are most dear to us, I mean our women. It is barbarous that those unfortunate beings should be left illiterate, untrained and uneducated. It is absurd to suppose that, showing them the light of learning, or giving them the opportunity of knowing what is going on in this world, is not neccessary. They were not meant to be kept like beautiful idols under *pardah* in ignorance and superstition. They are, according to the opinion of Dr. Knighton, the "models of womanly excellence." I do not deny this, nor will any body, but a cultivation of their faculties, an exercise of their brains and intellect, and a development of their moral and physical forces by means of education, would decidedly make an addition to their native excellences. Women

the auspices and christened under the name Lord Northbrook, this is "The Northbrook Indi. Club." This Club is also founded opportunely an well, I believe, in time be a most useful institution o its kind for the benefit of Indian gentlemen residing in England. But I am afraid I am going somewhat beyond my limits in giving you these details, however, I shall return and with your leave, say a word or two regarding my Hindu brethren. Gentlemen, I must tell you I am happy to see some Hindu element in your meeting. You will scarcely believe me when I say that I am equally thankful to them as I am to you. They are our common neighbours, and it is natural that we should expect that they would share with us in our doings. I have had the happiness and privilege of enjoying the friendship of Hindu gentlemen in England as well as here, and I have never had any occasion to regret but many for prizing their friendship. Apart from all personal considerations I hold them in my highest estimation. The Hindus have been our educators and we have been their imitators. With the intimate knowledge of their steady progress and advancement towards moral culture and English education, we Muhammadans have been left far, far behind them. Whichever way you would turn your eyes, you find their number far greater than ours. Look at the Schools and Colleges, look at the number of Graduates and Under-graduates, look at the Government offices, or in business, look at any of the independent

fessions of Barristers, Lawyers and Doctors, look those carrying out mercantile transactions, you ill discover with shame, our standard is far lower han theirs! Who broke through more rigid and orthodox laws than ours in going over to that country whence I am just returning, to bring back Western culture and civilization? It was the Hindus who took the lead and we followed their examples. Why these differences! The field was equally open to us as to them. Neither can we say that our brains or mental power to prosecute studies are in any way unequal to theirs. The reason I apprehend—putting aside what may be said to have been due to laziness, idleness, luxury, dislike to work or exercise one's brain, the bad counsels of illiterate men, womanish superstitions and narrow-minded perjudices and want of preseverance and patience—the reason is that we grasp so quickly as our neighbours did, the meaning and advantage of an English education when it was introduced into this country, and we have thus been kept in the back ground. These are mere statements of truths and nothing else. We began our performance when too late to keep pace with our Hindu friends, but gentlemen, without any further disparagement I must say that our progress toward success has been slow but sure; and with the young and promising generation rising before us and the important progress which has taken place within the last ten years,

are intended to be our helpmates, companions, sharers of our happiness and prosperity or misery a[illegible] adversity; they are to be our mothers, sisters, an[illegible] daughters. We seldom mix with them, scarcely do we associate with them, they are kept aloof from us in the *zenana*. Why so, because we cannot appreciate their company, and to avoid them becomes desirable. Well, friends, no one deplores this state of things more than I do. But what can a single hand do to remedy such an evil. If we were to look from the crown-head, downwards to the social position of the women of other countries even to those of Turkey or Egypt, save our own, we cannot any longer allow ourselves to keep quiet in regard to our women. My idea of educating them is not, I hope you will understand me, that our women should learn English alone, but teach them our own literature, our history, our geography, our mathematics, our moral and mental philosophy, and our religious text books in our own languages. Perhaps it would be dangerous to suggest that our *zenana system* should be done away with, and looking with serious attention into the present state of our society, I am not one of those who would maintain that the *zenana system* is a social evil, like saying that the Hindu mother-in-law was a social evil specially proved to be at the Bombay side. But at the same time I should be the last person to encourage its existence, as that alone has been a great barrier to our free intercourse with the Englishmen and women

well as with our own neighbours, and I earnestly hope, as events march on towards enlightenment and civilization, that it will sooner or later die out. Time has built up the system and time will change it.

Now a word to my young friends, the students of this Madrasah. Believe me, I tell you all, by my own experience, the lesson that you can derive from that compound word "Self-Help." If I owe anything to this world, to my improvement, to my education, to my success, to my present position, it is thro' *Self-Help*, and if any rise awaits me, it will be from that same *Self-Help*. But this "Self-Help" must be accompanied by self-denial, unselfishness, patience, perseverance and determination. Leave out all your *ifs*; for instance, do not say "If I had patrons, or my father had been a rich man or a Judge, I would have got an appointment" and so forth; for you can yourself make your patrons, if at all necessary, and get an appointment if you deserve it. Follow these and you are sure to succeed in your aims and actions without depending on others. I shall here read to you some advice given by that illustrious statesman, Mr. William Ewart Gladstone, the Prime Minister of England, which he addressed to the students of the Glasgow University.—"Be assured that every one of you has his place and vocation on this earth, and it rests with himself to find it. Do not believe those who too lightly say "Nothing succeeds like success;" effort, gentle-

men, honest, manful, humble effort succeeds by its reflected action, especially in youth better than success, which, indeed, too easily, too early gained, not seldom serves like winning the first throw of the dice to blind and stupify; get knowledge, all you can, and the more you get, the more you breathe upon its nearer heights the invigorating air, and enjoy the widening views, the more you will know and feel how small is the elevation you have reached in comparison with the immeasurable altitudes that yet remain unscaled. Be thorough in all you do and remember that though ignorance often may be innocent, pretension is always despicable. Quit yourselves like men, be strong, and the exercise of your strength to-day will give you more strength to-morrow. Work onwards and work upwards, and may the blessings of the Most High, soothe your cares, clear your vision and crown your labour with reward."

I have already tired your patience, so I shall not trespass on your time any longer, but one word and then I have done.

I ask you one and all to join in my humble prayer for the welfare, the well-being, and the regeneration of our mother-country. Let this be our guiding star that we may strive our best, and that some day or other we may succeed to bring it into effect. But, friends and countrymen, before we come to that grand solution, we must be united together, we must com-

bine our efforts in a common cause, we must work hand in hand, and leaving aside our religious differences, of caste and creed, we must be of one mind, and with unity of strength we must be one nation.

Again thanking you for the patient hearing you have given me, I resume my seat.

A vote of thanks to the chair, moved by Moulvie Muhammad Abdullah, Translator, High Court, and seconded by Mr. Syed Abdur-Rahman, brought the proceedings to a close at 10 P. M.

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THE END.

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